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HISTORY OF THE MATHESONS.

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BY THE EDITOR.

[CONTINUED.]

SIR JAMES MATHESON OF THE LEWS, BARONET.

UNDER the Mathesons of Shiness and Achany, in the county of Sutherland, we have referred briefly to this excellent man, and traced his descent through that family to the original Mathesons of Lochalsh. Sir James Matheson of the Lews, and his nephew, Sir Alexander Matheson of Lochalsh, are, perhaps, two of the most remarkably successful, and two of the best Highlanders, in many respects, of modern times. Unlike most men who have succeeded in the commercial world, and afterwards became landed proprietors, they have, altogether, treated their tenants as human beings, having different rights and higher claims on their consideration than mere articles of commerce. In their dealings with the people on their respective properties they have realised and given effect to the difference between men and women possessing souls and human bodies—themselves now virtually the law-makers—and bales of cotton or pig-iron. Such conduct, especially when the temptation and, probably, their personal interest were all in an opposite direction, ought to be recorded and highly commended.

We have already briefly stated what was done by Sir Alexander Matheson of Lochalsh, and we now proceed to record the

more prominent acts in the career of his uncle, Sir James Matheson of the Lews, trusting that, in addition to the historical interest attached to such a useful life—his remarkable career—his rise and success in the world, by indomitable perseverance and sterling honesty alone, from a comparatively obscure position, may prove an example to others, not only in their efforts to get on in the world, but especially in the use they make of a good position after it is acquired by honest toil, persevering industry, and honesty.

Sir James was born, as already stated, at Shiness, in the parish of Lairg, county of Sutherland, on the 17th of November 1796. He was the second son of Donald Matheson, representative of the family of Shiness [see p. 471]. Having been educated, first, in the Royal Academy, Inverness, and afterwards in the High School and University of Edinburgh—where he had among his class-fellows the Right Hon. Sir David Dundas ; David, Lord Marjoribanks ; Sir Robert Christison, Baronet ; Lord Brougham ; and Anthony Adrian, Earl of Kintore—he determined to enter upon a commercial career, and to devote his energies entirely to it. He, at the age of seventeen, went to London ; and, having spent two years in a mercantile house there, he, when only nineteen years old, proceeded to Calcutta, where he entered the counting house of Messrs Mackintosh & Co. After a short stay there he went to China, where he was long resident at Canton and Macao, and was one of the founders of the eminent and well-known house of Jardine, Matheson, & Coy., of Canton, and subsequently of Hong Kong.

A work, issued in Paris in 1844, entitled "The Historical and Biographical Annual of Foreign Sovereigns and Distinguished Personages," gives an interesting account of the commercial career of Sir James Matheson ; and we cannot here do better than utilise a translation in our possession for a sketch of his life up to that period. According to this brochure the firm of Jardine, Matheson, & Company was "well-known for its extensive relations, the importance of its commercial operations, and the liberality of its acts. A great number of persons who, at the present moment [1844], enjoy all the pleasures of wealth might attest that they owe most of their prosperity to the gratuitous friendship and benevolence of Messrs Jardine, Matheson, & Co., who have always been ready to help liberally and disinterestedly.

This is proved by the gratitude of the commanders and officers of the East India Company's ships who, when their commercial monopoly ceased in 1833-34, presented Mr Jardine, the senior partner of the firm, with a magnificent service of plate." It was not long after, however, before the services of Mr Matheson were also found of great value, and were ultimately suitably acknowledged in a similar manner.

For a few months Mr Matheson visited his native land in 1835-36, on which occasion he published a pamphlet on the state of commerce then, and its future, in China, which secured considerable attention; and the views which he then expressed, though disbelieved by many of his countrymen, proved his great insight and knowledge, for they were all fully confirmed by subsequent events.

In 1839, when serious differences arose between the British and Chinese Governments, Mr Matheson rendered most important services to the Civil authorities of his native country, as well as to the officers of the army and navy. It was owing to his mediation and influence at Canton, that Major Grattan of the 18th Regiment, Captain Dicey, and the officers and sailors of the East India Company's steamer *Madagascar*, which had been destroyed by fire on the Chinese coast, were set at liberty. They fell into the hands of the Chinese, but were released, during the war, in terms of a private arrangement entered into through the good offices of Mr Matheson.

He at all times used his influence to ameliorate the condition of the Chinese, and to establish various benevolent schemes in their interest. He was one of the most powerful supporters of Morrison's Educational Society, having for its principal object the teaching of English to the young Celestials. He also extended his influence and powerful aid in support of a Society established for the diffusion of useful knowledge among the natives; while he, at the same time, by every possible means, helped on the work of the successful missionary, Gutzlaff, in several important and trying circumstances.

Mr Matheson was the first to introduce to China the benefits and active influence of a European Press. He imported from England a printing press, first, for his own amusement, but afterwards allowed its gratuitous use to establish and print, in

1827, the first English newspaper published in China, under the title of the *Canton Register*. This publication proved very useful to the Europeans in the Chinese Empire, supplying them with regular information of a trustworthy and most important character, enabling them, the more easily and rapidly, to understand Chinese affairs. The paper also contained translations from the best native works, and original articles by Mr Matheson's distinguished friend, the late Rev. Dr Morrison. The commercial department of the paper not only proved useful to and enlightened the Europeans, but also conveyed to the Chinese authorities a great amount of valuable information on various subjects, to them previously a sealed book. Mr Matheson, however, subsequently had cause to regret that this journal, instead of remaining in its original groove, became, under other management, an organ for violent personalities and political diatribes—a state of things of which he very much disapproved.

He was among the first to oppose the system of unjust exactions which then prevailed, and the bad treatment pursued by the local authorities at Canton towards those engaged in foreign commerce. He did what he could to expose all such proceedings whenever they occurred. He took a leading part in getting up the famous petition to the House of Commons, which Sir Robert Peel presented in 1830, and in which the English merchants of Canton fully stated their views and grounds of complaint.

In 1842 Mr Matheson decided upon returning to his native land, he having already amassed a splendid fortune. Before leaving he handed over 5000 Spanish dollars, or about £1120, to the Portuguese Government of Macao, for the establishment of some charitable institution; the English having resided in the town of Macao during the late war.

On his way home he called at Bombay, where the native merchants, headed by his old friend, Sir Jamsetjee-Jeebhoy, presented him with an address, and at the same time offered him a service of plate of the value of fifteen hundred pounds sterling, "in recognition of his wise and firm conduct during the difficult crisis preceding the Chinese War, when he had protected their commerce, on the occasion of the seizure of their opium. On the 13th of June, 1842, this address was presented to him in the house of Sir Jamsetjee-Jeebhoy, an old and valued friend, surrounded

by a numerous and brilliant gathering, composed of men of different lands, races, and religions, who came forward from all directions with remarkable and unprecedented readiness and enthusiasm, "to express their gratitude to a man of such a great character, who, both as a merchant and philanthropist, merited so much public esteem, and whose liberality and munificence were indeed worthy of the title well bestowed upon him on this occasion of Merchant Prince." In name of the subscribers, and those present, Mr Framjee Comajee addressed Mr Matheson as follows :—"Your friends have been much grieved by the news of your intended return to England. They wish to express their grateful sentiments for the many acts of kindness and liberality which you have performed. They desire to express these in the Address which Mr Bomanjee Hormusjee is about to read." The last named gentleman then read the Address of the Parsee merchants of Bombay, which was couched in the following terms :—

MY DEAR SIR,—We cannot hear of your proposed return to England without feeling deeply grieved at the cause, which we hear is owing to the bad state of your health. We regret much to lose such a devoted friend, who supported our interests so successfully in times of incomparable difficulty and danger. During the space of three years, since the suspension of our commerce with China, we may state, without fear of contradiction, that any commerce of importance which we have been able to carry on has been entirely owing to your firmness and active perseverance. After the affair of the opium trade in 1839, which deprived India of two millions sterling, the Bombay trade was completely paralysed, and the most fatal consequences might have ensued; but you generously came to the rescue of our country and sustained our commerce, helping us to carry it on under foreign flags. All this was done at your own risk and on your own responsibility for the public welfare. When we consider what might have happened if you had not come to our assistance, we cannot express the measure of our gratitude to you. Our ships laden with cotton would have had to remain in the ports, the cargoes becoming rotten, while our fortunes would have been entirely destroyed. It is therefore natural that we, who are under such great obligations to you, and who owe so much to your wise conduct, should wish to express the great esteem we feel for your character and the gratitude we feel for your numerous acts of unparalleled liberality. We seize this opportunity with pleasure to express to you that we have had every reason to be grateful to you, and to state that we have never come to you with a reasonable request without its being received and granted by you with the greatest kindness. Our best wishes will always attend you, and in order to leave in your mind a perpetual souvenir of our affection, we have begged of our estimable friends, Messrs Magniac, Jardine, & Co., to present you, on your return to England, with a service of plate of the value of £1500, which we beg you to accept as a token of our sincere respect.

This address was signed by Cursetjee Ardusees Selt, Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, Jagonette Sunkersett, Dackjee Dadajee, Boman-

jee Hormusjee, and 76 other equally distinguished native merchants of Bombay.

Mr Matheson returned thanks as follows :—

DEAR SIRs,—The address which I have just had the pleasure of listening to is so flattering, and the offer which accompanied it so magnificent, that I feel quite overwhelmed at the honour you so kindly wish to do me, and I can find no words to express my great gratitude to you. I am quite convinced that the services you rate so highly are nothing more than a commercial agent owes to his correspondents. I can only attribute the fact that you deem these services worthy of such a great distinction, which I consider as very little merited, to the generous feelings which characterise your nation and dispose you to view any efforts made on behalf of your commercial interests in the most favourable light. This confirms the long experience I have had of your dealings, and is a great pleasure to me. The agent employed by you is always sure that, even were his efforts not crowned with success, they would be appreciated, and his conduct reviewed with indulgence, instead of, as is often the case, being made responsible for every result even if not favourable. This loyal confidence is what is most wanted to assist an agent, and it is that which caused us to act as we did in the unhappy circumstances which you mentioned on the occasion of the suspension of commerce in 1830. But I repeat that your indulgence causes you to rate these services too highly. We were guided by the simple rule of doing to others as we would wish to be done by, and, as the circumstances were extraordinary, extraordinary measures were necessary. I acted in common with the other partners of my house. The satisfaction which I feel at receiving this mark of esteem from such a large body of merchants is increased when I consider what an assembly of noble-minded men I have the pleasure of meeting to-day ; when I think of your munificent charity, the means you have taken to help the indigent classes, the places of worship you have established, the hospitals you have opened, the schools and colleges you have founded to diffuse the knowledge and science of the Western world. Thus your loyal aid on behalf of every worthy institution is known to all ; but my admiration is particularly excited by the knowledge I have of your private and constant charities, of which no one, I am sure, has an idea in Europe, and whose only reward is the approbation of your own consciences and that of the Invisible Being who governs the world. It would be an inexhaustible theme were I to enlarge on the estimable qualities of the Bombay merchants. I will only add that it is a great satisfaction to me, as well as to your other European friends, to know that your generous deeds have at last attracted the attention of our most gracious Sovereign, who has given proofs of her appreciation by the honours borne by one of the members of your corporation. This is an important step towards the amalgamation of the interests of the two nations, England and India, and I am sure it is the precursor of other similar honours. There only remains now for me to express my deep gratitude to you for the honour you have wished to do me. Your splendid token of gratitude, precious in itself, will be doubly so on account of those by whom it is offered. I shall preserve it all my life, and it will be preserved by my heirs. Rest assured, however, that this present was not necessary to make me always remember you in my heart, whatever lot is reserved for me in China, in England, or elsewhere. I hope you will always consider me as your most devoted friend, and that you will never hesitate to ask any service from me. I shall always be most happy to be of any use to you. In conclusion, I wish you each every good fortune and happiness.

Before his return to Britain Mr Matheson, in 1840, purchased

the estates of Achany and Gruids, in his native parish of Lairg, county of Sutherland.

In 1847 he purchased the village of Ullapool from the British Fishery Commissioners at a cost of £5250, subject to a feu-duty of £50 10s, payable to the Countess of Cromartie, from whose ancestor, Lord Macleod, the Commissioners feued the estate in 1788. Sir James redeemed the feu-duty in 1878, for the sum of £1136.

In due course Mr Matheson arrived in Britain ; and, in 1842, he was elected member of Parliament for Ashburton, Devonshire, of which town he was, jointly with Lord Clinton, lord of the Burgh and Manor. He soon became very popular with his constituents. Two thousand of the labouring classes of that burgh joined in a penny subscription, and presented him, during one of his visits, with a silver snuff-box, beautifully executed by Messrs Hunt & Roskell, of London.

Soon after his return to Britain he contributed a thousand pounds to the funds of the Royal Caledonian Asylum, London, and was then instrumental in opening up that excellent institution to girls, hitherto available to boys only. In addition to the handsome sum given by himself to the Asylum, he collected a considerable amount among his relatives and friends. Nor was he even thus early forgetful of his brother Highlanders in the North. The Academy of Tain, now a prosperous and high-class educational seminary, had been closed for some time for want of funds, but through Mr Matheson's personal munificence, and his influence among his friends, the Academy was placed in a good financial position, and reopened for the successful teaching of Highland youth in the higher branches of knowledge. In acknowledgment of this generous assistance and valuable service to the town and district, the Provost, Magistrates, and Town Council of Tain presented him with the Freedom of the Burgh. Mr Matheson also subscribed five hundred pounds towards the establishment of the Northern District Lunatic Asylum at Inverness, which has since proved such a blessing to the unfortunate creatures who previously wandered all over the country, in many cases unprotected and unprovided for, and, too often, to the great danger of the community.

In 1844 he purchased the Island of Lews from the honour-

able Mrs Stewart Mackenzie of Seaforth for £190,000, and he entered into possession at Whitsunday of that year.

That the Seaforth Trustees might not harass his new tenants, he bought all the arrears due on the estate at Whitsunday, 1844, for which he paid a composition of £1417 18s 1d, and they were never charged against anyone, except in a few cases where feuars were in arrear who could well afford to pay their feu-duties.

This great Island principality has an area of some 417,469 acres, of which about 10,000 are arable. The original cost to Mr Matheson was about 9s 2½d, while the rental averaged 5¼d, per acre; the annual rent being, on the original capital invested, equal to £5 3s 1d per cent. The agricultural rental of the estate in 1844, when it came into Mr Matheson's possession, was £9,800. It is now £13,300, or an increase of £3,500, which must be placed against an outlay of £99,720 expended by the proprietor in building farm houses and offices, and on improvements and reclamations of land. Of the increased rental, £1,788 is derived from holdings of £15 and upwards, and £1,712 from crofters paying under £15 per annum.

Mr Matheson commenced his great efforts for the advancement of the material prosperity of the Island in 1845 by building a patent slip, quays, constructing roads, and other works for the promotion of trade, some of which have since proved of great permanent advantage, while others, unfortunately, have become complete and ruinous failures. His extraordinary efforts to improve the agricultural character of the Island have been great and earnest, though not, for various reasons, altogether successful.

The late Mr Smith, Deanston, who was at the time considered one of the most eminent of "speculative" agricultural authorities in Scotland, was engaged to survey the Lews with a view to improvements and reclamations of land, and he advised works on an extensive scale. He became Mr Matheson's adviser and engineer, and after surveying the whole island, he recommended the simultaneous prosecution of land reclamation on the coast and in the interior.

These works were commenced, in 1845, on six sections along the coast, and in one part of the interior 890 acres were reclaimed and brought under cultivation. These lands were thus apportioned:—In the Stornoway district, 520 acres; Loch Roag,

50; Galson, 140; Deanston, 60; Carloway, 40; Barvas, 40; and Shawbost, 40 acres. Part of the reclaimed lands in the Stornoway and Galson districts was added to existing holdings, all of which were then remodelled. The remainder was ultimately divided among the crofters.

The test of Mr Smith's ambitious but ill-advised scheme was the portion of the interior upon which he operated, and which bears after him the name of Deanston, in the parish of Uig. The soil consisted of moss, from three feet to twelve feet in depth. Sixty acres were wedge-drained, and laid out in fields of 10 acres, enclosed with ditches and turf fences. The surface was dug by an operation something between the extremes of ploughing and trenching, after which a coating of clay marl was applied, followed by a good supply of shell sand, guano, and dissolved bones. Two of the fields were put through a course of arable cultivation, while the others were laid down in grass. Those fields were wrought for several years, and the driest part of the ground naturally gave a superior crop of grass. Afterwards this land was given to small crofters, but they had ultimately to abandon it, for, among other reasons, being too far from the sea coast, and, so, unable to procure sea-ware for manure or prosecute sea fishing in connection with their crofts, which by themselves were not large enough to support their families.

In 1850 the improvement scheme was suspended, and shortly afterwards given up altogether. In 1851, in spite of the noble efforts of the proprietor, four of the Parochial Boards of the Island sent a memorial to Lord John Russell praying the Government to afford relief in the shape "of a judiciously conducted emigration" to some of the many unoccupied tracts of lands in the Colonies; and for aid for maintaining such members of the remanent population as might require it until the next crop became available. The memorial stated that all that had been expended by the proprietor "has proved unremunerative, and only in a small degree promotive of the existing or prospective comfort and prosperity of his tenants; that it is well known that the cereal produce of the Island has not, in the memory of man, been adequate to the supply of the inhabitants for more than four to six months of the year, and that the depreciation of all agricultural, pastoral, and fishing produce is 50 per cent." This memorial

was forwarded by Sir James Matheson to Lord John Russell on 27th January, 1851, in a letter in which he endorsed the statements therein set forth, adding that "as the redundancy of population is notoriously the evil, emigration is the only effectual remedy to afford elbow-room and fair scope for the success of the antecedent measures which, from over population, have hitherto proved comparatively unavailing." Sir James was at this time spending a great deal more in the Island than the revenues from his estate. During the six years from 1844 to 1850, he spent, over and above his rental, the sum of £67,980, including, however, £29,124 borrowed from Government under the Drainage Act, for which some of the tenants paid 5 to 6½ per cent. interest, amounting in all to £561 18s 10d per annum.

The portions of land brought under cultivation nearer the coast have since been maintained in a crop-bearing state, and now yield a fair return. These improvements, at such enormous cost, have, however, to a large extent, unfortunately turned out failures. To have employed a mere "speculative" agriculturist to carry them out, in a place like the Island of Lewis, so different in every respect to the Lowlands of Scotland, was a misfortune, and an unfavourable result was inevitable from the beginning. For this, however, no blame can be attached to Mr Matheson. He was misled and imposed upon, and he had to pay for his error in a very substantial form. Referring to his laudable efforts to improve the condition of his people, the *Inverness Courier*, on the occasion of his death in 1878, says:—"Between 1844 and 1850, Sir James spent nearly £68,000 in improvements, and there is no more distressing example of the fruitlessness with which, for the most part, it was expended, than the township which Mr Smith called after his own place of abode in Stirlingshire. The soil is gradually relapsing into peat and heather, and the houses are falling back to the condition of the primitive natives of the Island. Still, the strongly-felt wish of the proprietor, that he should leave the island and its people better than he found them, has been in a great measure accomplished." In this all who know anything about the actual facts must concur.

In 1844, when Mr Matheson purchased the estate, there was no steam communication between the Island and the mainland. He immediately offered various firms of ship-

owners in Glasgow a subsidy of £500 annually to run a steamer between Glasgow and Stornoway, but no one agreed to undertake the risk, believing that no sufficient trade existed to support a steamer. He afterwards took shares in the "Falcon," a steamboat which ran for a short time between Ardrossan and Stornoway. This boat ceased running in October 1845, when Mr Matheson built, at his own expense, the "Mary Jane," soon found to be too small for the trade. The "Marquis of Stafford" was then built by him and the Duke of Sutherland for carrying on the business. She was, however, ultimately sold, when Mr John Ramsay of Kildalton took up the traffic, and, after him, the well-known firm of Messrs David Hutcheson & Coy., now succeeded by Mr David Macbrayne, who runs two steamers weekly to Stornoway. There is also, once a fortnight, a boat from Liverpool, Granton, Dundee, and Aberdeen; and during summer and harvest, one from Glasgow calls, once a month, in Loch Roag, on the west side of the Island.

Mr Matheson's loss by the "Falcon," "Mary Jane," and the "Marquis of Stafford" steamers amounted to £15,000.

Soon after his accession he built schools in almost every district of the Island, not previously provided for by a Parochial or Free Church school. Teachers from the Free Church Normal School were appointed and paid by him. These schools were not well patronised, and, after a few years' trial, Mr Matheson was so disappointed with the small attendance and with the little appreciation of the schools by the people, that he handed them over to the Edinburgh Ladies' Association, at the same time granting an annual sum towards the salaries of the teachers. He had also built, in Stornoway, an Industrial Seminary for females. Besides the ordinary branches of education, Ayrshire needlework was taught in this institution, but it was soon found that the latter did not pay, and it was ultimately given up. The seminary, however, is still upheld as an industrial institution by Lady Matheson. The outlay by Sir James on this institution and the other schools already mentioned—apart from grants to Parochial and Free Church schools—amounted to £11,681.

There are now not less than 32 Board Schools in the Island, in addition to 3, in the village of Stornoway, not under the Board,

and 4, in outlying districts, maintained by the Edinburgh Ladies' Association.

In 1849, Mr Matheson was instrumental in forming a Gas company in Stornoway, in the capital of which he took £350. He also established a Water company, in which he invested £1,150.

When he purchased the property in 1844, there would have been about 45 miles of imperfectly formed, rough, country tracks in the Island. There are now over 200 miles of excellent roads, on which Sir James spent, including bridges, £25,593.

In 1845, there was but one solitary gig in the whole Island. There are now no less than 87 taxed conveyances.

When, in 1844, Mr Matheson came into possession, and for many years after, a sailing packet conveyed the mails twice a-week to and from Poolewe. Subsequently the steamers, as well as the sailing packet, carried the mails; and when Mr David Hutcheson placed two boats on the route, they carried the mails twice a-week, but still very irregularly. After many years' contending with the Post-Office authorities for a mail steamer to Stornoway, they at last offered to place the Lews on the same footing as the Orkney Islands, and offered a subsidy of £1,300 for the conveyance of the mails. No one could be found to take the contract at this price, and Sir James Matheson took it himself for a period of ten years, commencing on the 1st of August, 1871. By this arrangement he lost £16,805.

Between 1851 and 1861 no less than 1772 souls emigrated to Canada, while in the two succeeding years, 1862 and 1863, an additional band of 459 left for the same place, making a total, in twelve years, of 2231 from the Island. To pay their passage money to Quebec, their Canadian inland railway fares to the different settlements, and a considerable quantity of clothing and other furnishings, Sir James expended a sum of £11,855.

The population of the Lews in 1841, three years before it came into his possession, was 17,037; in 1851 it was 19,694; in 1861, notwithstanding the emigration stated, it increased to 21,056. In 1871 it reached 23,483; while in 1881 it amounted to 25,415 souls, in addition to 400 militamen who were out of the Island when the census was taken. This is a total of 2550 more than the whole population of the county of Sutherland,

and an increase, since 1841, of 8788 souls, or more than 50 per cent.

There are at present in the Island of Lews 2881 crofters, paying a gross rental of £8,070 6s, or an average of £2 16s each.

To meet the great destitution of 1845-6, the proprietor imported meal and seed potatoes to the value of £33,000. About one-half of this sum was afterwards refunded by labour on roads or on other works of improvement.

In addition to the sums already stated, Sir James at one time or another expended the following sums:—

Castle Buildings and Offices, including Grounds and Policies	...	£100,495
Brickworks	6,000
Patent Slip	6,000
Fish-curing Houses	1,000
Bulls for Improvement of Crofters' Stock	1,200
Quay for Steamers at Stornoway	2,225
Chemical Works for Manufacturing Paraffin Oil from Peat	...	33,000
Cost and Outlay on Shooting Lodges	19,289

£169,209

Sums already mentioned but not included
in above statement:—

Buildings and Land Reclamation	£99,720
Industrial and other Schools	11,681
Gas Company	350
Water Company	1,150
Road and Bridges	25,593
Loss on Steamers	15,000
Loss on Contract for Carrying Mails by Steamer	...	16,805
Emigration of 2,231 souls to Canada	11,855
Meal, Seed Potatoes, &c.	33,000
		215,154
Original Cost of the Lews	190,000
		£574,363

The gross rental from all sources, including £350, the sum at which the Castle and grounds are entered in the Valuation Roll, amounts to £19,154 3s 1d, and gives, in 1882, an annual gross return of £3 6s 6d per cent. From this, however, falls to be deducted the Public Burdens, amounting to £4027 17s 0d, which reduce the net return for this vast expenditure to £2 12s 8d per cent. per annum. But to give a more correct idea of the financial

results of these operations, it is necessary to deduct the cost of Stornoway Castle, grounds, and policies, from the calculation on the one side, and the sum at which these are entered in the Valuation Roll for the county on the other, as these were in possession of the proprietor, and the expenditure on them bear no comparison with the sum entered against them in the Valuation Roll. The result is that the expenditure on the whole estate, apart from that on the portion of it in the hands of the proprietors themselves, gives a clear return of £3 2s 4d per cent. on the total purchase price and subsequent improvements—a very fair percentage, it will be admitted, as land goes.

Had this noble-minded and generous man placed less confidence in his subordinates the administration of the vast property under his charge would probably have been almost faultless, but like many more well-meaning and naturally generous landlords, he delegated too much responsibility to his late factor, and this led to abuse in the latter years of his life, when he was unable from old age and failing health to give personal attention to the management of the property. Were it not for this we would never have heard of the "Bernera Riots." Sir James was a good, an excellent, and humane proprietor, generous and loyally trustful to a fault. He resided for eight or nine months each year in his Island home, among his people, who, during his life generally spoke, and still speak, of him in the highest terms.

In 1847 he retired from the representation of Ashburton, when he was unanimously elected for the combined counties of Ross and Cromarty, a position which he occupied to the entire satisfaction of his constituents until he retired into private life in 1868. He was appointed by Her Majesty, in 1866, Lord Lieutenant for the County of Ross. He was a Fellow of the Royal Society; and a J.P. and Deputy-Lieutenant of his native County of Sutherland.

In 1843 he married Mary Jane, fourth daughter of Michael Henry Perceval of Spencer Wood, Canada (a Member of the Legislative Council of Quebec), by his wife, Anne Mary, eldest daughter of Sir Charles Flower, Baronet, without issue. In 1850 Her Majesty testified to her sense of his benevolence during the Famine of 1845-46, by creating him a Baronet of the United Kingdom.

He died at Mentone, France, whither he had gone for the benefit of his health, on the 31st of December 1878, aged 82 years, and was buried at Lairg, in the county of Sutherland, where his widow, Lady Matheson of the Lews, erected a noble monument, with appropriate inscriptions, to his memory.

His estates are all left in life-rent to and under the uncontrolled management of Lady Matheson, and entailed on his nephew, Donald Matheson, present representative of the family of Shiness.

(To be continued.)

THE HISTORY OF THE MATHESONS, in a neat volume of some 80 pages, will be published about the middle of September. The issue is strictly limited to 250 copies. Price to subscribers, whose names will be printed in the work, 7s 6d; to non-subscribers, 10s 6d.

WASHED OVERBOARD.

We all must bear our burdens, we all must feel our woe,
We reap in harvest-time the fruit of what in Spring we sow,
Betimes we reap the ripened corn, betimes 'tis only tares,
Betimes we find 'twas barren land we tilled and sowed for years.

But, ah! methinks there's sorrow, methinks there's mournful woe,
When comes the Messenger of Death with his effectual blow;
Methinks there are times when man should mourn and hearts should weep aloud,
When comes the news that one we love lies in a watery shroud.

A mother sorrows for her boy, brothers and sisters weep
For him who was a sailor lad, and braved the dangerous deep,
And friends who knew him sympathise, and friends unknown are sad,
E'en though there be no ties to bind them to this sailor lad.

The boy had joined the *Sovereign*, a sailor he would be,
He would go forth to roam the world; he'd face the raging sea;
But e'er a year had passed away, sad was the news that came,
"Our sailor boy went overboard; Tom Milne it was his name.

"The Mediterranean's raging sea engulfed his youthful form,
He could not brave those furious waves; all-powerful was the storm—
He sunk, no human aid could help, no human strength avail,"
All that his comrades now could do was—tell the mournful tale.

"Thy will be done on earth, O God!" our humble prayer would be,
"And ask that Thou wouldst keep the souls of all upon the sea;
And when it is Thy will to send the tempest's furious gale,
Have pity on the broken heart, oh, hear the mourner's wail."

G. M'K. S.

A HIGHLANDER'S EXPERIENCE IN THE HUDSON BAY TERRITORY.

IN or about the year 1812 my father was working at his trade in the town of Port-Glasgow (even then a busy port of entry for the city of Glasgow), which lies fifteen miles up the Clyde, and here large-sized ships had to cast anchor, as the river had not then been deepened enough to admit of their proceeding up to the city. The house in which father lived was kept by a West Highlander, whose father-in-law resided in part of the house. This was an old gentleman on the verge of fourscore, who had seen much service both by land and sea. As father was then young, fond of information, and a Highlander like his host, the old man took a pleasure in relating or describing to him some of the scenes and adventures of his earlier life, the incidents of which were both numerous and interesting.

At seventeen years of age he left the rocky hills of Cowal and fought in the battle of Culloden, under Campbell of Argyle, against the last Prince of the Stuarts who contended for the crown. After this early introduction into the sad and fearful scenes of "war with all its murdering joys," our hero, Donald Bane, went home to Cowal, and not far from his native place he learned the trade of a cooper, which he did not easily settle his mind to on account of his former initiation into the bustle and excitement of the battlefield. Accordingly, on the termination of his apprenticeship, he joined the Royal Navy, and his next warlike experience was in fighting against the French in the English Channel, under the gallant Admiral Roscoe. In course of time Bane's naval as well as military term came to an end, but being yet in his prime, strong, and active, he engaged himself as a cooper for a period of years to serve in the Hudson's Bay Company at one of their factories in the far north of America.

He reached his destination in the summer of 1781, and entered upon his duties according to the terms of agreement, part of which was that, besides working at his trade, he had often to go out among the woods along with others in search of such animals as were wanted for their skins and fur, and these the Company prepared and sent home to Britain to be further dressed and

exposed for sale. This trade in fur was the source of the Company's wealth, and the anticipation of this result was the occasion of its formation.

After the lapse of some time, when Bane was well known and much respected at the fort both for his courage and skill, he formed one of a party who were out in the forest hunting for wild animals, and in order to come on their game with better caution, they all agreed to separate and afterwards meet at a specified time and place of rendezvous. Bane was eager in his work, and had already ended the happy career of many a small quadruped, and must have been far away from his companions when he saw a party of wild Indians running in upon him from every part of the forest, gesturing and yelling like madmen. Resistance on his part would have been worse than useless. The Indians made him their prisoner, and marched him away into the never-ending sylvan shades; a long and weary journey, guiding themselves by the westward course of the sun. Day after day they continued their tedious march, shooting and killing such beasts and birds as they could, and which served them for food along with herbs and fruits that abounded in many parts of the wilderness. At the end of the day they would cast their eyes around for some halting place convenient for water and shelter. The red men soon perceived that the pale-faced captive was a much better shot and had a knowledge and method far above any of them, and so they deemed him doubtless a great gain—an uncommon power and acquisition to their tribe either in time of war or peace. At length the long march of the wild men of the woods came to a close.

They reached a lake whose further shore
Was lost beyond the setting sun,
Whose ample bosom filled the view
Beneath a heaven of rarest blue;
A tideless sea whose rising gale
Had never urged the bending sail,
Nor caught the seaman's song.

In Europe none before could tell
What lay behind that parallel,
And many ages now had passed
Since Asia's wondering sons were cast,
And hardly shunned a deadly fate
When dashed ashore from Behring Strait.

On the banks of this lake the hunters were met and savagely welcomed by their squaws and children; for this was the centre of savage life and society. Here Bane was compelled to stay, where he saw it would be the better policy to assume an air and manner of contentment and strive to identify himself with his red-skinned neighbours; and, however sore against his will, he had to say and do many things which under other circumstances he would have revolted from. Often have tyrants wished to know the secrets in the breasts of their slaves; and Momus, the ancient satirist, suggested that man should have a window in his breast as well as a tongue in his mouth, that others might see if his words and actions agreed with his thoughts. Often did Bane long for the life and habits of civilised society, but this feeling he durst not betray, nor divulge the thought for his life. None within hundreds of miles could understand how he could feel, and the savages were far below that mental or moral discipline that would render them capable of sympathising with him, even if he had told them how he felt.

Those people lived by hunting and war, and often had abundance of food, but at times were in great straits for the means of subsistence; and as the inevitable result of ignorance and want of mental culture, they had no rational enjoyments. True, their mode of life encouraged and fostered a certain degree of human sagacity, which at best is but a meagre substitute for civilised life and learning. Bane, like others before and since, had heard of

Those happy times ere learning yet began,
When wild in woods the noble savage ran;

but, like the blue hills that bound the distant horizon, a close acquaintance with them is apt to dispel the romantic and fairy delusion.

Sometimes this intelligent European saw the prisoner of war butchered, and his carcase hung up in the wigwam for winter's food, and at other times, in extreme want, the red savage would bury the knife in the heart of his wife and children before the eyes of a man who had been brought up among enlightened Christians. The only thing that saved the life of this stranger and white man was his usefulness to them on account of his superior knowledge; and this advantage they both felt and saw, and gave him credit

for even more than he really knew or could do. His knowledge of the arts of Europe and wide experience saved the Indians in many a strait. His gun was of more service to them in war and in the chase than any of their own; and besides being a cooper, he could turn his hands to various other crafts. He was not only their director, but their principal artisan in all their public works, such as building, shoemaking, clothing, repairing guns, and making utensils for daily use among those rude citizens of the forest. Often did he contemplate escape, but was too well watched by the wily and suspicious Indians; but for all this the idea of escape was so cherished in his bosom that it became the ruling passion of his life, and all his powers of invention and contrivance were conjured up in laying schemes for the accomplishment of this one object.

He had now been three or four years among the tribe, and to all outward appearance had become as one of themselves. He was aware that the men were to go out hunting on a long excursion on a certain day, and in view of this he feigned himself sick and submitted to unpleasant medical treatment, remaining an invalid in the camp while the rest of the men betook themselves to their great hunting expedition. Bane knew that somewhere on the east side of the vast lake a river of large volume flowed through a great stretch of unexplored country to the north-eastern sea of Hudson's Bay. He had learned also that on three tributaries of the river three factories were situated belonging to different nations, viz., the English, the French, and the Danish; but as each of the other two countries was at war with Britain, he was almost as anxious to shun them as he was to make his escape from the Indians. And now for his escape. With the hope of making out this river, he quietly stole from the encampment on the evening of the day after the men's departure, and wishing an everlasting but unexpressed farewell to his familiar but uncongenial associates, he took a canoe and paddled along in the darkness of the night in the supposed direction of the river. Thus he continued all night, but when daylight approached he took shelter close to the margin of the lake and concealed himself among the long grass and bushes that grew by the edge of the water. He drew the canoe ashore, and having rested himself during the daylight, he was refreshed when he sallied forth under the cloud of night

in pursuit of the much-desired river. Onward, beneath the raven wing of night, on that silent lake, secretly, earnestly, and swiftly, he left the distance behind, but still the same unconquered distance seemed before him to baffle his efforts and jeer at all hope of success ; but the impulse to get away from the revolting scenes of his long captivity, and the dread of re-capture, urged him on with wonderful and unremitting perseverance, while he felt and experienced a vivid sagacity, caution, and endurance which before this occasion he did not think himself capable of. The Indians had evidently been very soon apprised of his flight and gone in pursuit of him, for on the third day after he left, and when he lay concealed among the reeds, he heard some of them passing at a short distance from where he lay ; indeed, so near were they at one time that he could hear his own name mentioned. Yet by the providence of God, in whom he trusted, his hiding-place was not discovered, and they passed along without observing him. In this way our hero continued for seven successive days and nights to sleep during the sunshine and welcome the dark that he might resume his voyage of discovery, till at length, when tired and worn by hunger, hard work, and anxiety, his wakeful eye caught sight of the opening river. He went up to it to make sure that it was not some creek or bay, and finding the current running further inland than he could see, and after observing the tendency and appearance of the banks, it was evident that he was not mistaken. Yet here the difficulty before hinted at presented itself. There were a Danish and French factory on the same river, as well as an English one, and these two nations were at war with Britain, so that he had two chances to one of falling into the hands of enemies perhaps as bad for him as the Indians.

His food was exhausted ; he was tired and almost worn out ; he was chagrined, too, because he could not solve the present doubtful question about the situation of the English factory. In whatever direction he might steer all was danger and uncertainty. Around him were beast, bird, rock, and tree, but they could bring him no sympathy or comfort. He looked far out upon the wilderness. Men may have been somewhere in that wide expanse, but, if so, he dreaded them even more than the wild beasts, for was he not hunted by men for seeking life and safety by flight ? The friendly face of a white man might be

hundreds of miles away behind that weary horizon. Possibly death was very near. He was almost at his wits' end. He thought of Cowal and the scenes of home and childhood, of his father and mother. His eyes filled with tears. From the sombre earth he lifted his eyes to heaven. The fleecy clouds were gliding gently under the blue sky, and then he prayed to Him that sitteth on the circle of the heavens, as David the great singer of Israel had cried out of the depths 3000 years before, and by faith in the Son of David did this veteran warrior now, in his utmost extremity, call from the depths of his wretchedness to the Eternal God of Salvation for help and strength. As a soldier and sailor he had long ago mingled in the strife of rival dynasties and hostile nations, but never before did he so feel his helplessness or pray with such earnestness as he did now.

He was yet on his knees when the startling Indian war-cry assailed his ears, and thirty or forty half-naked savages ran at him with knives and tomahawks. And now he expected instant death, but one of the savages rushed between Bane and the others calling out, "Cæsar! Cæsar!" The same Indian turned to his fellows and began to give them an explanation of this procedure, which at once had the effect of turning the tide of their feelings; for he was now caressed and honoured like an Indian chief, and called by the Imperial title of Cæsar, which enabled Bane to comprehend the nature of the case more clearly. In order that the reader may also understand what occasioned this happy reversion in the conduct of the savages, we must refer to an incident which occurred a short time after Bane had arrived in the settlement at Hudson's Bay.

He and some of his fellow-workmen were out hunting one day in the forest, shooting and capturing such animals as they wanted for the sake of their skins and fur. The men had all scattered in different directions, and Bane was alone. In the stillness of the forest he heard the screams of a human being. He hurried to the place whence it came, and saw not any of his companions, but an Indian savage with a wild cat on his back which had sprung on him from a tree. The man held the beast by the neck, trying to choke it, but the cat used its hind feet so fast and with such force that the four-footed and soulless savage would soon have vanquished the human one. Bane saw that

the Indian's life could not last longer than a few moments, so, taking a speedy but sure aim with his gun, he shot the wild cat dead on the spot and saved the Indian's life, by which act of kindness he became the never-to-be-forgotten friend of this wild forest hunter. The Indian gave his name, but the white man did not remember it. Bane told the Indian to call him by the name of Cæsar, which the grateful Indian remembered long after in the tumult of his feelings when they met under different circumstances, and after many days, when all hope seemed to have fled, he found this bread formerly cast upon the waters return to him on the shores of Lake Winnipeg.

If selfishness had ruled the Indian's heart he could easily have agreed to the murder of his benefactor, and so have ended all obligations to him, and apparently have got rid of any further concern in the matter. Yet two things prevented this: first, the earnest cry of the troubled soul who cried to the God of Heaven for help; second, that conscience written on the heart of him who had never learned the Decalogue nor heard the Gospel of Salvation; and so the motives and conduct of him who was neither under the law nor the gospel were overruled by the predetermined providence of Him who numbers the very hairs of our heads.

When the Indian had explained to his friends how Cæsar once had saved his life, he informed him that they were a different nation to those he had been so long with, and that now they were going down to the French factory to sell their skins and ornamental work; whereupon Bane told them if they went with him to the English factory, he would assure them of higher prices and a readier market than if they went to any other place to transact their business. The Indians were easily persuaded to this, and knowing well where to find the English house, undertook the journey, gliding down the romantic stream, fringed and tinted on either bank with the pale green, yellow, and crimson hues of the North American autumn. A few days after this there stood by the gate of the English factory a wild and strange-looking man, who said he had once been cooper in that place, and now wanted to get admission once more. The keeper at the gate indeed knew his voice to be familiar, but as his face and head were covered with long dishevelled hair, and his whole aspect weird and ghastly, the watchman ran in all haste to the captain,

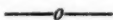
saying, "Bane, the cooper, is now at the gate, and wants in." "It may be his spirit," said the captain, "but it cannot be himself as he was, for he was doubtless murdered in the forest years ago." However, the captain came down and saw for himself that their old friend the cooper of former times was indeed there, and in the flesh too, though the latter portion of his humanity was represented but very sparingly. He wondered also to see him at the head of a band of Indian traders, but took courage and let him in at the gate, leaving the men outside; but Cæsar remaining longer in the garrison than the Indians could account for, they began to think something was the matter—perhaps he was murdered, or on the eve of being so, when they all at once attacked the wooden gates with their knives and hatchets, and would soon have made their way through the frail barricade. The men inside were preparing to drive them back with their weapons, when a peaceful state of affairs might have changed to bloodshed, war, and lasting vengeance for the want of patience and wisdom, if their friend had not gone out to explain to them by translation the difference between civilised and savage etiquette, and that even the former was sometimes overlooked, and that on the present occasion there was an inexcusable neglect shown on the part of himself and his former friends in leaving his faithful and friendly allies so long in suspense outside the gates. He hoped also that they would excuse his neglect in waiting so long to receive and reciprocate the welcome and congratulations of the people of the factory. This apology was accepted by the Indians, and they were pacified. Then all the men were taken in, heartily welcomed, and entertained like princes. Bane remained a few years more at the factory, and the company continued to trade with the same people while he was there and long after he left the territory; and by the latest accounts the Indians of that tribe were still true and faithful to the nation of the pale-faced hunter who rescued their brave companion from the claws of the wild-cat.

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA.

N. B.

MR KENNETH MACDONALD, F.S.A., Scot., Town-Clerk of Inverness, sailed from Glasgow on the 17th of August, for a holiday tour in Canada. Our readers will probably learn something of his experiences.

JOINT MEETING OF SCIENTIFIC AND LITERARY SOCIETIES AT INVERNESS.



A MEETING of representatives from fifteen different Scientific and Literary Societies was held in the Town Hall, Inverness, on the 11th of August. Kenneth Macdonald, F.S.A. Scot., President of the Inverness Scientific and Field Club, occupied the chair, supported, on the platform, by Duncan Forbes of Coludon; Lieut.-Colonel Donald Davidson; E. H. Macmillan, manager of the Caledonian Bank; Councillor Alexander Ross, F.S.A. Scot.; Walter Carruthers, of the *Inverness Courier*; Alex. Mackenzie, F.S.A. Scot., editor of the *Celtic Magazine*; William Mackay, F.S.A. Scot., Hon. Secretary of the Gaelic Society; Thomas D. Wallace, F.S.A. Scot., Rector of the High School, and Secretary of the Field Club; A. Penrose Hay, Town Chamberlain; The Rev. W. Chisholm, Banff; Dr Aitken, F.S.A. Scot.; and William Jolly, F.S.A. Scot., H.M.I.S. There was a very good attendance, and the proceedings were of a most interesting and instructive character. Several papers were read, but our space will not admit of more than a mere reference to some of them.

The President read a paper on "Inverness in the Eighteenth Century," mainly from the Records of the Town Council. Dr Aitken came next with a paper on "Craig-Phadruig and the Distribution and Theories of Vitrified Forts" generally. Mr Alex. Ross, architect, followed with a sketch of "Old Inverness," the most interesting portion of which was two letters written by one of the Magistrates of the day to the Lord-Advocate, complaining of the manner in which the well-known Mr Burt and others tyrannised over the Invernessians in 1726. The letter to the Lord-Advocate, hitherto unpublished, is as follows:—

"It is very agreeable to us to understand that your Lordp. has recovered your former strength, not only because of the affection we still have hadd for the faimly in which you are so very nearly concerned and for your Lordp. person. But also in some measure because we thereby have access to lay our complaint before you, to which we claim a double priviledge of having the honour to be represented by your Lordp. in Parliatt., and as having certain knowledge of your affection to this Burrow of which we have the honor to be magistrat.

"As we have at all times out of our affection to his Magesti's person and Government endeavoured to cultivate a friendship with the troops quartered amongst us, It is with the greatest reluctance that we declare it impossible for us to bear with the haughty, keen, and unsupportable government of these military and stranger judges set over us. We mean Coll Clayton and Mr Burt, Justices of the Peace, and Major Ormsley of Genrl Whitney's regiment. It is not possible for us to give your Lordp. due account of the many insults and indignities offered us, we have no better terms from Coll Clayton than 'trucklers.'

"It is common for the last two to say in the coffee-house that we are corrupt and partiall Judges—that we have neither law nor Justice in our country—Dam our Laws.

"They, the Justices of Peace above named, will lay all matters before them and shew up the English law, and they will support and execute their sentences by their military force.

"If at any time we complain to the Governor of the injustice done the inhabitants by the soldiers, we meet with haughtiness and flashes of passion, instead of redress;

we are publickly certified every day almost by Major Ormsley, That if he see but three town's people in a tuilzee (or a mob, as he calls it), That, by God, he will Disperse them that moment by Bullot, That he'll let us know that he is not oblidged to read a proclamation, or wait dispersing of a mob one minute, and to convince us that he is in earnest, the oyr day, when we were going by the Guard-room with a buriell, the Guard was turned out and ordered to charge their peices with Ball, and put fresh powder in their pans, which was at our sight execute; and as we know not how farr a man of Mr Ormsley's complexion might mistake a Buriall or some such occasion for a mob, we represented to the Governor that we did not understand such management, who told us in derision that what the Major did was to do us honour, and all the excuse for this threat to shoot us is that we were only fined in £90 Scots. A fellow who exchanged some words (and a blow as appeared by the testimony of our witness) with a sergeant, whereas the Governor, Mr Burt, and Mr Ormsley would have him whipt by the hangman within ane inch of his life, which is a punishment your Lordp. has told us many times we could not inflict for such a crime. However, seeing Mr Clayton was not humor'd in this matter, and by verball complaint in court he tells us that if we are troublesome he will very soon take all power out of our hands.

"My Lord, if such treatment as we meet with dayly be the effect of lodging a judicative power in the hands of strangers and military, we cannot longer boast of being free-born subjects, but must acknowledge ourselves slaves to the pride and passion of such as profess not only ane ignorance of our law, but ane utter abhorrence of all our countrymen without distinguishing betwixt such as wish well to the present constitution or not. And, therefore, as these are not our sentiments alone but of every individual of the town, we do expect from your Lordship a substantial immediate relief, and such as will free us for the future from the Tyrannie of those passionate men, or otherways we might make a surrender of our effects to those (military men) who thirst so much for civil power.

"Inverness, 21st January 1726.

"To the Lord Advocate "

The same Magistrate on the same day wrote the following letter to Mr Forbes of Cul-loden, brother of the Lord-Advocate, backing up the one just given:—

"Honble. Sir,

"We were very happy whilst you were amongst us; but ye were no sooner gone than we began to feel the effect of powers being lodged in the hands of a man who hates our Law, our Country, and everything belonging to it. Notwithstanding of his fine speeches to the contrary when he was held under command, and by whose influence we meet with many insults and indignities from other persons, which we have of this date written to the Ld. Advocate, to which we reffer.

"We expect that as ye still have been our true friend, and are still our first magistrat, that ye'll inform our complaint with your Brother, and as we are justly founded you, we expect your hearty concurrence for getting us immediate relief.

"We are by our charters and repeated acts of Parl'tt. confirming the same (and grof we have extracts) Justices of Peace within ourselves. But seems no regard is to be had to charters or acts of Parl'tt. of Scotland by our new judges and Governor; if we are to loss all privileges we think it should not be with shut mouths; and therefore it is that we apprise you of our danger that ye may support the priviledge of our Burgh in such manner as ye shall think fite.

"Inverness 21 Jany. 1726."

Mr Ross concluded an interesting paper thus:—"We have many public and private buildings of considerable merit, and there is an air of progress and business activity which is surpassed by few provincial towns. The population has increased from 2400 in 1645, with one ship of 50 tons, to 5107 in 1798; to 9663 in 1831; 12,509 in 1861 to 14,463 in 1871; and 17,366 in 1881."

The paper read by Mr William Mackay, one of the representatives of the Gaelic Society, is so interesting that we give it at length, as follows:—

LIFE IN THE HIGHLANDS IN THE OLDEN TIME.

In this paper it will be impossible to give any exhaustive account of Life in the Highlands in the Olden time, and my endeavour will be to give you such glimpses of the past as may, in some degree, interest you in the social condition of our Highland forefathers—a subject of which, I am sorry to say, comparatively little is really known. We have histories, and, so far as they go, good histories, of the Highlands, but these, for the most part, consist of pedigrees of chiefs and chieftains, and narratives of the wars and feuds, which, from time to time, ravaged our country; and, unfortunately, we learn little from them of the domestic life of the people.

I shall begin with the statement that the average Highlander of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries was by no means an uneducated man. Not only were there good Grammar Schools at Inverness, Portree, and other towns, but a considerable number of Parish Schools was scattered over the country; and, judging from the notices which the Church Records contain of these, their influence must have been greatly beneficial. For example, I find from Presbytery Records that, in 1672, the people of Kiltarlity were "weel satisfied" with their schoolmaster, Mr Charles Ritchie. At the same time there was a "flourishing schoole" at Kirkhill, under the charge of Mr Thomas Fraser, who was exhorted by the Presbytery "to walk exemplare in holieness before the young ones, and to continue worthie of the commendation that was given of him." In 1675 the ministers and elders of Dores reported "that several gentlemen had schools in their own houses for educating and training up of their children, and they were upon a feasible way, if this dear year were by, to convene and stent themselves for a public school for the common good of the whole parish;" and the Presbytery exhorted the minister, elders, and gentlemen to "follow and cherish this good motion as they wish that the knowledge of God may be upon the growing hand among them, and their posterities to bless their action when they are gone."

The teacher, as a rule, was a man who had been educated for the Church, and previous to his appointment, he was examined by the Presbytery. Some idea of what was expected of him may be gathered from the examination in 1673 of Mr Alexander Ross, an applicant for the situation of teacher in Inverness. Among other things he translated the third ode of Horace at sight, and delivered an oration *de vanitate humani Scientiar*, on the vanity of human knowledge.

In the seventeenth century education was greatly encouraged by the Highland Presbyteries. They collected money among the parishioners, and applied it towards the support of smart boys at schools and promising students at the Universities; and the members of each Presbytery collected among themselves the necessary funds to pay for the education of a boy speaking the Gaelic, or, as it was then generally called, the Irish language. The manner of selection is shown by the Presbytery of Dingwall's Minute of 9th October 1649, which requires "that a list of poor boys having the Irish language be given in to the Presbytery the next day for election of one to be trained up at schools on the Presbytery's charges, providing always that their parents be not able to sustain them."

The old Highlander was particularly careful to commit his more important transactions to writing, and thus there have come down to us heaps of contracts and agreements of all kinds, letters, receipts, and other business documents. If, for example, he was a man of any substance, he, on his marriage, entered into a written contract with his intended spouse. There is still preserved the marriage contract, dated 1364, of Hugh Rose of Kilravock and Janet Chisholm, daughter of the Constable of Urquhart Castle, the most striking provision of which is that the bride's father was to keep and entertain her in meat and drink for three years after her marriage, her husband being, however, bound to supply her with all needful garments and ornaments. I hold in my hand the contract of marriage of my own ancestor, Duncan Mackay of Achmony, dated 1592, and by which he gives to his intended wife, in the event of her surviving him, the life-rent of his estate. The deed is in Latin, written as you see on skin, and is very short and to the point. As a contrast to it, I show you Alexander Grant of Shewglie's marriage contract, dated June 1717, and which consists of roll of paper two yards in length. Among the witnesses to this latter deed is the famous Donald Murchison, who writes a bold scholarly hand.

Notwithstanding the assertions to the contrary which are now-a-days so frequently made, the old Highland proprietor took very good care to have valid written titles to his lands, and these titles show that from at least as far back as the 12th century the land was vested in the title-holders absolutely, and not in trust for the people. And, from the earliest times, the proprietor granted leases of the lands, collected the rents either in kind or in money, and evicted such tenants as did not pay. I hold in my hand a lease, dated 1642, of lands and shealings on the borders of Kintail, under which the tenant, Alexander Macrae, was bound to pay to the landlord "or his factors in his name, having his power," the sum of forty pounds of rent, and to deliver to the laird yearly "ane sufficient white plaid," three stones butter, twelve cheeses, a fat kid, a fat calf, and one mutton or good sheep; and I also show you a warrant of removal under which nineteen tenants were evicted by Sir Rory Mackenzie of Findon and Sir Alex. Mackenzie of Coul in the year 1688. It would be interesting to know whether there was then any Highland Land Law Reform Association to take up the cause of the evicted. That there were quarrels about land then as now is certain, for here is a judgment showing that John MacWilliam Vick Neill, in Wester Knockfin, was, in 1692, fined ten pounds Scots for deforcing an officer who attempted to poind his sheep for arrears of rent. And, in 1699, the Duke of Gordon's feuars and tenants in Badenoch addressed a "vindication" to his Grace, in which they bitterly complained of the conduct of his Bailie or Factor, William Mackintosh of Borlum, whom they accused of having "reported one of the most wicked, malicious, and notorious lies that his serpentine wit could invent, or the Devil could indite"—a lie which, they declared, "was never hatched or contrived without the concurrence and inspiration of the father and author of lies."

As you are aware, the ancient Highlanders were a warlike people. I need not tell you of the many feuds between rival clans, or of the great national struggles in which they joined to take a common part. But I wish to point out to you that those wars were not entered upon lightly, or without a due appreciation of the gravity of the undertaking. For instance, when, after the judicial murder of King Charles I., the Scots took up the cause of his son and entered upon the war which closed disastrously at the battle of Worcester in September 1651, the Highlanders joined in the national movement; and the records of the Presbytery of Dingwall give a vivid picture of how the Highland army was mustered and prepared for the conflict. The clergy from their

pulpits called upon the people to join against the "sectary" Oliver Cromwell, and the chiefs went about among their people encouraging them to rise for King and country. From our own vicinity a regiment of Frasers marched south under the command of the Master of Lovat, and having the Rev. Donald Fraser, minister of Kilmorack, as chaplain; and a regiment of Mackenzies followed, led by the Earl of Seaforth, and under the spiritual guidance of the Rev. Donald Macrae, minister of Kintail. Before they started, special fasts were observed throughout the country, when the following prayers were offered from every parish pulpit:—That God would make His people willing and stir them up for the defence of the country and bless and gather their armies together; that God would graciously unite the hearts of those who are concerned and in hazard by the present enemy, to act jointly for the cause of God and against the enemy with one heart and mind, and remove all jealousy and heartburning from amongst them; that the Lord would provide for the necessary preservation of the lives of His people from sword and famine, lead out our army, cover their head in the day of battle, teach their hands to war and their fingers to fight, and make them have good success, that the enemy may flee and fall before them; and that God would look upon the Royal Family and bless the King, that he may be kept free from the snares and dangers of the times, and in due time restored to his right, and set on the throne of his three kingdoms. As I have said, the expedition thus so solemnly entered upon ended fatally on the field of Worcester.

But I must hasten to give you a glimpse or two of Presbyterial proceedings in the olden time. The records of the Presbyteries of Inverness and Dingwall show that the Presbytery of the seventeenth century was an important body, exercising the most extensive jurisdiction in matters civil and ecclesiastical. Nothing came amiss to the reverend brethren in Presbytery assembled. In 1655 the Presbytery of Dingwall tried a person for a murder committed in Strathconon. About the same time Duncan Mac-Murchie Vic Cuil, in Gairloch, successfully applied to the Presbytery for divorce from his wife, Agnes Kemp. One, Finlay Buy, is heavily fined for getting drunk and beating his mother. Margaret Dow is found guilty of sorcery by burying a lamb under the threshold of her byre as a preventive against the death of her cattle; and Mairie Nien Vic Neill pleads guilty to having put a pock of herbs in her milk to prevent the substance thereof being taken away by witches. In 1656 a great number of people in Applecross and in the district of Loch Maree were found guilty of idolatry by sacrificing bulls to St Mourie or Maolrubha in Isle Maree. Numerous attempts were made by the various Presbyteries to put down dancing, piping, and fiddling at likewakes, and the cases of church discipline that came before them were legion. Once an unfortunate man or woman came under the eye of the Presbytery, it was difficult to get beyond its reach until the offence was expiated in due form; and so perfect was the Presbyterial organisation, that, for example, Alexander Besack, a fugitive from the discipline of the Presbytery of Inverness, was in 1679 traced to Tongue, in the extreme north of Sutherland, and brought back; and, more wonderful still, Margaret Fraser, an Inverness breaker of the Seventh Commandment, who had about the same time fled the country, was traced to London and brought to discipline by the Presbytery of her native town. In addition to all this the members of the Presbyteries collected money from their parishioners for all conceivable objects. There were no China missions or missions for the Jews, but the calls upon the liberality of the old Highlander were numerous notwithstanding. For instance, in 1652, a collection was made in each parish within the Presbytery of Dingwall on behalf of the "distressed people in Glasgow" who suffered from the army of Cromwell. At a meeting of the Dingwall

Presbytery in 1665, "the Moderator produced an order of His Majesty's Secret Council in Scotland in reference to William Mackay, merchant in Dumbarton, a sufferer under the late usurpation and rebellion, recommending him to the charity of the several parishes of this kingdom;" and the brethren were ordained to send in the contributions of their congregations before the ensuing Synod. In 1667, the same Presbytery ordained the brethren "to collect some charity from their respective congregations for one Captain William Murray, a distressed gentleman," and at the next meeting the money so collected was delivered to the Moderator. At a meeting of the Inverness Presbytery in 1670, a letter was read from the Bishop "requiring a collection from the respective parishes within the Presbytery for repairing the bulwark of Dundee." The parishioners do not, however, seem to have thought that they had any special interest in the bulwark, for at the next meeting the brethren declared, with reference to the proposed collection, "that their people were most unwilling and dissatisfied with the same."

Sometimes the Presbytery was asked to adjudicate on somewhat delicate questions. For instance, at a meeting of the Dingwall Presbytery in 1665, "Mr John Mackenzie, archdeacon, advised with the Presbytery in reference to a woman in his parish (Killernan or Redcastle) whose husband being carried to Barbadoes after the battle of Worcester and married there for certainty, whether the said woman might have the benefit of marriage with another man." The Presbytery had a difficulty in the matter, and it was resolved to confer with the Bishop. What the final decision was does not appear.

I have time simply to mention the proceedings of the Baron Courts which were held in almost every Highland glen. The Baron Bailie who presided over the Court exercised almost unlimited jurisdiction, sentencing criminals to death, fining tenants for killing deer or cutting turf or green wood, punishing drunkards and breakers of the peace, and fixing the prices to be charged by shoemakers, tailors, and weavers, and the wages to be paid to servants. The old document now in my hand is the record of a Court held in 1699 by John Grant of Corrimony for the purpose of trying Donald Macallister Vic Oill Duy, accused of stealing a "red prick horned bull," a sheep, and some worsted. The proceedings are most carefully recorded. A jury of fifteen is empanelled, who, after hearing the evidence, retire and bring in a written verdict of guilty. The prisoner is sentenced "to be hanged, on an gallows by the hand of the hangman, to death, and his corpse to be cut down and buried at the back side of the kirk yard."

I shall close these imperfect sketches by reading the funeral letter issued on the death of the Rev. John Mackenzie of Redcastle, the gentleman who propounded the difficult matrimonial question to which I have referred. It is perhaps the oldest Highland funeral letter now in existence. It runs thus:—"The favoure of your presence to accompanie the corpses of Mr John M'Kenzie, minister of Killernan, from his Dwelling house ther to his buriall place within the Church Yeard ther, Saturday next, being the twentie sevent instant, be ten a cloacke in the forenoon, is earnestlie intreated."

John Horne, F.R.G.S., of the Geological Survey of Scotland, read an eloquent and learned paper on "The Origin of the Andalusite Schists of Banff and Aberdeenshares," followed by one by Ralph Richardson, F.R.S.E., Vice-President of the Edinburgh Geological Society, on "The Arctic Shell Beds of Scotland." A paper by the Rev. W. Chisholm, Banff, and an invitation from the Banff Club to the Joint Societies to meet in that town next year, and accepted by the meeting, brought this part of the proceedings to an end, when the party adjourned to

SUPPER AT THE STATION HOTEL,

Where some very excellent and enjoyable speeches were delivered, under the presidency of Mr Kenneth Macdonald. Among others present at the supper, or at the excursion on Saturday we noticed the following:—Professor Struther, Aberdeen; Dr Balfour, Edinburgh; Ralph Richardson, F.R.S.E., W.S., do.; John Horne, of H.M.G.S., Banff; William Jolly, H.M.I.S.; Thomas D. Wallace; James Barron, editor, *Inverness Courier*; Walter Carruthers, of the *Inverness Courier*; Bailie Smith; Councillor Alex. Ross; Alex. Mackenzie, editor of the *Celtic Magazine*; Geo. J. Campbell; Dr Ogilvie Grant; John Macdonald, banker, Buckie; James Fraser, C.E.; E. H. Macmillan, manager of the Caledonian Bank; Sheriff Blair; Dr Aitken; Dr Dalzell; Dr Macnee; John Whyte; Dr Corbet, Beaul; Councillor Charles Mackay; Jas. Clarke, solicitor; Finlay Macgillivray, do.; Captain E. O'Sullivan; Paul Waack, German teacher; Robert Davidson, accountant; W. Gowenlock, Highland Railway; John Cran, Kirkton; Alexander Macbain, Raining's School; C. Livingstone, Fort-William; Colin Chisholm, Edinburgh; Angus Grant, Glen-Urquhart; Roderick Maclean, factor, Ardross; Councillor Noble; John Fraser, chemist; Geo. Robertson, Victoria Circus; Alex. MacIennan, painter, Inverness; J. Ross, Merkinch School; Robert Ferguson, Aberdeen Granite Works; J. C. Kennedy, Springfield House, Elgin; J. G. Phillips, curator, Museum, do.; D. Mackenzie, advocate, do.; Dr Grigor, Nairn; William Brown, Earlsmill, Dyke; Rev. W. Chisholm, Banff; Mr Spence, head master, Banff Academy; Rev. Mr Milne, King Edward; David M. Fraser, Ayr Academy; Mr Docherty, Thurso; Mr Joass, Dingwall; Rev. Dr Richard, London, &c.

About ninety persons, including a few ladies, started from the Town Hall, at 9 A.M., on Saturday, for an

EXCURSION TO KIRKHILL, BEAULY, AND STRATHGLASS.

The day was beautiful, and the party heartily enjoyed themselves. Mr Jolly dilated on his favourite theme, Geology, and Mr Barron gave a most interesting account of the old Chapel of Kirkhill. Mr Alexander Ross and Dr Corbet described the architecture, and related the history and legendary lore of the Priory of Beaul. Sheriff Blair and the President entertained the party to an excellent luncheon at the Falls of Kilmorack, after which they drove on to Struy, made some geological researches, and found their way to Inverness, by Eskdale and Beaufort, at 10 o'clock in the evening, every one being highly pleased with the day's proceedings.

We regret that the space at our disposal will not admit of our giving such an extended notice of the excursion as we would wish, and must content ourselves with the following, from Mr Barron's most interesting and instructive account of the

OLD CHAPEL AND PARISH OF KIRKHILL.

The chapel in the Churchyard, the mortuary chapel of the family of Fraser, was built in 1772, and contains the remains of the Frasers of Lovat up till 1815. The present parish of Kirkhill is made up of two parishes, one of which was the old parish of Wardlaw, and the other the old parish of Fearnlaw. They were united in 1618. The Rev. James Fraser was minister of the parish of Wardlaw from 1661 to 1709, and it was he who left the Wardlaw manuscript, but his manuscript journal dates from a period before he became minister of Wardlaw. Fraser saw the building of the citadel at Cromwell's Fort at Inverness, and describes where the timber was taken from. The civil history of the district is this: The first Norman family established here were the Bissets, who came into prominence in the time of William the Lion, but after

flourishing for about 100 years the family went into the female line, and their extensive estates were divided among a great number of families, such as the Fentons, the Boscobos, and the Grahams. The Frasers came into the place in the middle of the fourteenth century, having apparently acquired the property of Lovat by marriage, and subsequently by means of marriages and purchases they extended their possessions until they came into possession of the domain that now forms the patrimony of the Lovat family. The most prominent man of the whole family was old Simon, who was executed on Tower Hill in 1747. The question sometimes asked was whether his body was buried in the chapel or not. According to one of the most recent histories the body was given to an undertaker in the Strand to be preserved and sent North, but it was taken, it was said, by the order of the Government, and buried in St Peter's Chapel in London. However, this story does not correspond with local tradition, which says that the body was brought North, and this local tradition was confirmed by a letter which Mr Barron had from Mr Peter, the factor for Lord Lovat, in which he says that about thirty years ago the late Lord Lovat told him that shortly before that time some of his sons looked into the vault and found an old coffin which contained the remains of the beheaded Lord. The lid had been torn off. The body was in the coffin, and the skull was lying in another part of the vault exposed. Dr Corbet said that the head was in a tin case, that the Beauuly boys used to come up to the churchyard to steal the teeth, and that only one was left. Old Simon left two sons, one of which raised the Fraser Highlanders, and fought with Wolfe at Quebec, and had his lands restored to him. His brother Archibald, also son of Simon, was the last of the old line, and he died in 1815, receiving a remarkable Highland funeral, at which 1000 clansmen attended, and so copious were the libations of mountain dew that a number of them tumbled into the vault intoxicated, and were only taken out in the morning when the smith came to lock the door. The present family are the Frasers of Strichen, who came into possession on the main stem dying out, and their burying place is at Eskadale. Old Simon Lord Lovat put up a tablet in the mortuary chapel in remembrance of his father, but he managed to put in a great deal about himself. It is as follows, and is quite characteristic of the man :—

“To the memory of Lord Thomas Fraser of Lovat, who chose rather to undergo the greatest hardships of fortune, than to part with the ancient honours of his house, and bore these hardships with an undaunted fortitude of mind. This monument was erected by Simon Lord Fraser of Lovat, his son, who likewise having undergone many and great vicissitudes of good and bad fortune, through the malice of his enemies, he, in the end, at the head of his clan, forced his way to his paternal inheritance, with his sword in his hand, and relieved his kindred and followers from oppression and slavery; and both at home and in foreign countries, by his eminent actions in the war and the State, he has acquired great honours and reputation.

Hic tegit ossa lapis, Simonis fortis in armis,
Restituit pressum nam genus ille suum.
Hoc marmor posuit cari genetoris honori;
In genus afflictum par erut ejus amor.”

This inscription, observes Burton, was dictated by the same policy which made Duplex raise his pillar of triumph at Pondicherry. When Sir Robert Munro saw it, he said, “Simon, how the devil came you to put up such boasting romantic stuff?” Lovat answered, “The monument and inscription are chiefly for the Frasers, who must believe whatever I their chief require of them, and their posterity will think is as

true as the gospel." To the left of this inscription there is another curious inscription by the Hon. Archibald Fraser, who died in 1815, to his own memory, as follows :—

"This stone is erected to the memory of the Honourable Arch. Fraser, LL.D., F.R.S., F.A.S., F.L.A., &c., &c., Lord of Beaufort, Abertarff, and Lovat, Soldier, Macshimi 38th, nephew to John Duke of Argyle, godson to Archibald Duke of Argyle.

"A.D. MDCCLXIV.—While upon a diplomatique mission to the Mahometan states of Africa, he, by order of his most sacred Majesty George III. effected a peace between those states, the kingdom of Denmark and the republic of Venice. He procured indemnification from the empire of Russia, for depredation committed on the British flag; and during his ten years stay in those countries, he, by his King's permission, redeemed, Spanish, Portuguese, and imperial subjects, at the expence to those courts, of two millions sterling, while not a single Briton was sold or taken into slavery.

"A.D. MDCCLXXXII.—He co-operated with James Duke of Montrose in recovering to the Highlanders the dress of their ancestors.

"A.D. MDCCLXXXV.—He, at his own expence, and in person, surveyed the fisheries on the West Coast of Scotland and the Hebrides, and petitioned for a repeal of the duties on salt and coals; encouraged the manufacture of coarse wool, hemp, and flax; he laboured to improve the soil; he amended the breed of Highland oxen, and broke them into harness; he meliorated the dairies; and by affording employment to a hardy race of men, returned from serving their country in the wars, he repressed emigration, and preserved to his country their equally valuable services in peace.

"A.D. MDCCXCII.—After quelling insurrections on the 10th August, he planned the system of legally putting arms in the hands of men of property; and had, when the Empire was threatened by invasion, the satisfaction of seeing its adoption and efficacy.

"Born 16th August 1736; died December 1815."

Here is one way of securing fame and immortalising one's self at a cheap rate.

HIGHLAND TESTIMONIAL TO PROFESSOR BLACKIE—MEETING OF GAELIC SOCIETY OF INVERNESS.

A MEETING, under the auspices of the Gaelic Society, was held in the Town-Hall, Inverness, on Wednesday, 16th August, in furtherance of a proposal to get up a testimonial to Professor Blackie, as a slight recognition of his many services to the cause of the Highlands and Highlanders. Mr Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P., chief of the Society, presided. There were also present—Dr Mackenzie of Eileanach; H. C. Macandrew, Sheriff-Clerk of Inverness-shire; Dean of Guild Mackenzie, editor of the *Celtic Magazine*; John Whyte, librarian; Ex-Provost Simpson; Dr H. C. Gillies, Glasgow; James Barron, F.S.A. Scot., editor of the *Inverness Courier*; Ex-bailie Noble; Colin Chisholm (an Honorary Chieftain of the Society); Donald Reid, solicitor; Geo. J. Campbell, do.; John Mackenzie, C.E.; D. Watt, Volunteer Arms; And. Davidson, sculptor; William Mackenzie, secretary of the Society; Wm. Bain, assistant editor of *Inverness Courier*, &c.

Mr William Mackenzie, the secretary, explained the object of the meeting. One of the members of the society, Bailie Macdonald, Aberdeen, he said, had written a letter to the editor, which appeared in the current number of the *Celtic Magazine*, suggesting that the Highland Capital should inaugurate a movement to present Professor Blackie with some tangible token in recognition of his many services on behalf of the Highlands and Highlanders of Scotland, and the letter was backed up by an editorial

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note. The present time, the secretary said, was exceedingly appropriate; for the services of the Professor towards the establishment of the Celtic Chair were practically completed and crowned with success. Further, his great Highland work "*Altavona*," was fresh from the press, and admired by Highlanders all the world over; while his stirring address at the Annual Assembly of the Society in July was still ringing in their ears. It was now still more opportune for inaugurating such a movement as had been suggested on account of the fact that the Professor had retired from the teaching profession—although he hoped not from public life. (Applause.) After consulting with several members, he called a meeting of the Council of the Society. It was held on Thursday last, and after fully considering the matter, it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Dean of Guild Mackenzie, to take immediate steps in the direction indicated in Bailie Macdonald's letter, and he was instructed to call the present meeting in furtherance of the proposal. What form the testimonial should assume was not yet decided upon; but a suggestion that it be a portrait by one of the leading Scottish painters, had been favourably received. He announced letters of apology for absence from Bailie Macdonald, Aberdeen; Captain A. M. Chisholm, Glassburn, and others—all commending the scheme and promising their support.

Mr Fraser-Mackintosh, M.P., who was received with applause, said that as Mr Mackenzie had remarked, this was certainly a most opportune time for inaugurating a movement in recognition of Professor Blackie's services in the interests of Highlanders. It came rather by surprise on most people that the Professor resigned at this particular moment, but no doubt he had very good reasons for doing so. There were two ways in which this matter might be effected. In the first place this Society might do something by themselves, and make it a local matter; or, in the second place, they might take steps to communicate with other Societies and make it a general matter. But in any case something should be done, and this was an exceedingly opportune time for doing it. (Applause.) He would say himself that the claims of Professor Blackie were not local—they were general—(applause)—and much as he personally would wish to see Inverness take a very prominent part in the matter, he would be very glad to hear the opinions of others on the subject, and that being so it might be well if this Society put itself into communication with other Societies. But whatever was to be done ought to be done speedily, for at present there was a large number of the friends of the Highlanders and admirers of the Professor in the North. It might be premature to suggest what form the testimonial should assume. A portrait, if it were to be a local matter, would be very good; but if it were to be general, he did not think a portrait would be a sufficient recognition of the services of Professor Blackie to the Highlanders. (Applause.) A portrait might be sufficient from one small body, but coming from the general body of Highlanders all over the country, it would not at all be an adequate recognition. (Applause.) If it were to be general he thought the best thing would be the founding of some Gaelic bursaries—(applause)—or Blackie bursaries in connection with the Celtic Chair. There were two or three bursaries in connection with the Highland Society of London, and there were upwards of twenty applicants for them every year, each applicant having excellent testimonials—and many of these applicants the very flower of our Highland peasant youth. (Applause.) A number of such bursaries, he thought, would be a most fitting as well as a lasting memorial of Professor Blackie's services. (Applause.)

Dr Mackenzie of Eileanach, Ex-Provost of Inverness, said that when he saw the suggestions of Bailie Macdonald in the *Celtic Magazine*, he felt ashamed that they in Inverness—the capital of the Highlands—were not a little more forward in a matter

which so much interested them—(applause)—for there was no one who could equal Professor Blackie, if it were not Sir Alex. Matheson of Lochalsh, who had done so much for Inverness; but Professor Blackie had been working in season and out of season for the cause of Highlanders everywhere, and his claims were thus more general. (Applause.) He had a claim upon the whole Highlands and on all Highlanders—(applause)—for what he had done and what he is still willing to do for them; and the Highlanders ought not to be backward in doing their part towards commemorating his services for generations to come. (Applause.) He for one would be very anxious to see a portrait of Professor Blackie on the walls of our beautiful new Town Hall, that in future generations the stranger, when he would ask "Who is this?" would be informed "O, that's Professor Blackie who has done so much for the Highlands." (Applause.) Blackie bursaries, however, would be most excellent things to keep the memory of the Professor fresh in the minds of our Highland youth, and would be of great practical value. (Applause.) The matter should be taken up at once, and he for one would be delighted to aid the movement with all his heart. (Applause.)

Dean of Guild Mackenzie said that for a beginning he himself had suggested a portrait. He, however, was in favour of seeing the movement extend—and had stated so in his magazine. No one would be better pleased to see a number of Gaelic bursaries than he would; but he thought they should keep the portrait in view as one element in the proposed testimonial. (Applause.) A portrait should be presented, but the Professor should be left free as to how to dispose of it, although it would be most appropriate to decorate the Town Hall of the Capital of the Highlands with it. (Applause.) The matter had now been taken up, and whatever form it might ultimately assume, he thought it should be gone on with at once and brought to a successful issue. He stated that he himself had already received intimation of several donations, including one from one of their very best Highlanders, Mr John Mackay, C.E., Hereford, who wrote him as follows:—

"Reay Villa, South Bank, Hereford, 1st August 1882.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I do hope the Gaelic Society of Inverness may be patriotic enough to take up the suggestion of Bailie Macdonald regarding a testimonial to Professor Blackie. If ever any man deserved well of Highlanders that man is unquestionably Professor Blackie. In season and out of season he has been the advocate of their wants and rights. I am much mistaken in the character of my countrymen if they will not most enthusiastically take up the matter, and bring it to a creditable conclusion.

"There are Highland Associations everywhere. The work may readily be done through them, and done very effectively if once a start were made.

"As a commencement I will be a £5 note to the general fund.—Yours very faithfully,

"JOHN MACKAY.

"Alex. Mackenzie, Esq."

This, he said, was a very substantial beginning—(hear, hear)—and he hoped Mr Mackay's example would be extensively copied. (Applause.)

Mr Macandrew, Sheriff-Clerk, thought that perhaps the time for the bursaries had not come until the Celtic Professor was appointed. It occurred to him that in the meantime, as a local matter, a portrait of the Professor for the Town Hall, with a copy for the Professor himself, would be very appropriate.

Dr H. C. Gillies, Glasgow, was very glad to see this movement on foot and to hear an expression of his opinion on the matter by Mr Fraser-Mackintosh. The idea of having such bursaries as were proposed was brought before the Federation of Celtic

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Societies two years ago, by Bailie Macdonald, and then postponed. He was glad to see the matter now again brought up, and he hoped it would be put forward in such a way that all the Highland societies throughout the country could take part in the movement. (Applause.)

Mr James Barron, Editor of the *Courier*, who commended the proposal, said that a portrait of the Professor on the walls of our new Town Hall would be most desirable. They might be able to establish two or three bursaries, and get up this portrait also, all for about £2000; and it was for the societies to consider whether they could get up this amount. If not he thought our local society would have no difficulty in getting up a good portrait of the Professor.

Mr Colin Chisholm's feeling was that they ought not to content themselves with such a simple thing as a portrait. (A laugh.) By all means let them give him the portrait and show him how much they respected him, but let them extend their views farther in the matter, and he was sure they would be supported by every Celtic Society in the kingdom.

Mr George J. Campbell was pleased to see this movement on foot. He had himself suggested the matter of a bursary in a recent number of the *Celtic Magazine*, offering a subscription of £5, and he was glad now to see some prospect of its being successfully carried out. He would still give the same subscription towards the scheme.

Ex-Provost Simpson entered very cordially into the suggestions that had been made. A suggestion had been made that if there was a portrait for the Town Hall of Inverness, there might be a marble bust for the Professor himself; and if so their friend Mr Andrew Davidson would be the proper person to execute it; for he was a sculptor of whom the Highlands might be proud, who would well transfer the Professor's features to marble, and who was himself a worthy successor of their townsman, the late Alexander Munro. (Applause.) He hoped there would be a hearty co-operation among all the Gaelic Societies to have the matter brought to a successful issue. (Loud applause.)

Mr Fraser-Mackintosh then moved that the matter be remitted to the Council of the Gaelic Society of Inverness, with full powers—with instructions to communicate with the other Celtic, Gaelic, and Highland Societies throughout Scotland and England, asking them to co-operate in the matter, without delay; and, if favourable, asking them to appoint delegates to meet other delegates at some centre on an appointed day, or to send a statement in writing of their opinions on the matter. (Applause.)

Dr Mackenzie of Eileanach seconded, and the motion was unanimously agreed to.

Mr Fraser-Mackintosh, on the motion of Dean of Guild Mackenzie, was appointed Honorary Treasurer of the proposed fund, and Mr William Mackenzie to be secretary.

A vote of thanks to Mr Fraser-Mackintosh for his conduct in the chair brought the proceedings to a close.

[Now that it has been decided to go in for the more ambitious scheme of founding Blackie Bursaries, as well as presenting the Professor with his portrait, it is to be hoped that Highlanders will at once forward their subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, Charles Fraser-Mackintosh, Esq. of Drummond, M.P., Lochardill House, Inverness. Sums from a shilling's worth of postage stamps, upwards, will be gladly received and duly acknowledged. Let Highlanders show by their promptitude and liberality in this matter that they are not unworthy of the great and successful efforts put forth on their behalf by their redoubtable champion, Professor John Stuart Blackie.—ED. C. M.]

PEASANT PROPRIETORS.

—o—

REPLY TO MR MACDONALD OF SKAEBOST.

THE readers of the *Celtic Magazine*, I am sure, must take great pleasure in reading anything from the pen of Mr Macdonald of Skaebost in respect of the Skye crofters, in whom he has taken so kindly and intelligent an interest. In recent numbers, he demonstrated by figures, that they could pay, and in fact are paying, more for land per acre than large farmers. In a recent number he passes under review the aspect of the present agitation, and more particularly the theories that are being circulated amongst the people; but he does not offer any opinion of his own with regard to their particular grievances, as to whether they are real or imaginary, nor does he suggest any remedy for obviating, in future, cases which he deprecates, such as the Leckmelm evictions, the Lochcarron disturbance, and the more cruel and unjust clearances of former times.

As my object is merely to offer a few observations on that part of Mr Macdonald's article which has reference to peasant proprietors, I do not wish to complicate that question by following him over the wider field of a general land law reform for the whole country.

Some prejudice may be raised against earnest men who devote their time and talents on behalf of the poor and helpless, by being stigmatized as agitators, and Mr Henry George may share in that sweeping condemnation, as a political economist, chiefly, perhaps, because he happens to be an American. Such weapons, however, when used in discussion, indicate poverty of argument, rather than any merit in the cause of those who resort to such expedients.

Mr George's rough-and-ready method of remedying all human ills by confiscating rents, might in some cases be equitable enough, and, as a question of general fiscal policy, he would probably be thought by some as sound and by others as dangerous, but what I myself wish to point out is that the idea which underlies his able and eloquent work, "Progress and Poverty," is not an original idea, and that he answers well the character given by us to his countrymen of having great cleverness in presenting other men's ideas in a most striking light.

Regarding our tenure of land, the incidence of taxation, and the condition of the labouring classes, we are not without able exponents and weighty authority in Scotland. Whatever prejudice may exist with regard to Dr Nulty of Westmeath and Mr George of San Francisco, there exists none, I believe, with regard to Dr Chalmers, whose ideas Mr George works upon, and whose prescient and weighty words ought to

come home, at the present time, with peculiar force, to every thoughtful man. Let us listen to Dr Chalmers! In the preface to the first edition of his Political Economy, published in 1832, he expresses in a few words the idea which Mr George expands into a volume, and presents in a somewhat drastic form:—

And if not very hopeful of an instant acquiescence in our principles, far less do we look for the instant adoption of our practical suggestions. The urgencies of the country may perhaps speed onwards the commutation of tithes, and the measure of a universal education. *The commutation of taxes into a territorial impost, will be the work of a later age; though we should rejoice even now, did we witness a commencement, however humble, an approximation, however slow, to this great political and economical reform.*

May God of His infinite mercy grant, that whatever the coming changes in the state and history of this nation may be, they shall not be the result of a sweeping and headlong anarchy; but rather, in the pacific march of improvement, may they anticipate this tremendous evil, and avert it from our borders.

Having thus briefly adverted to the larger question of general policy, which at present occupies so large a place in the public mind, I dismiss it entirely as having little or no bearing upon a small measure of relief applicable to the peculiar position of the Highlands.

Seeing that a Committee of the House of Lords, and two of the ablest leaders of the Conservative party in the House of Commons (Sir M. Hicks-Beach and Mr W. H. Smith) have recommended a peasant proprietary as the final solution of the Irish difficulty, we may regard the adoption of that scheme as merely a question of time. If that be regarded as a good thing for Ireland, I can hardly think it would be a bad thing for the Highlands, for both countries have now had a fair trial of evictions, emigration, and depopulation, without producing any good results. Mr Macdonald, however, looks upon it as a leap in the dark, or rather as entirely inapplicable to the Highlands. His views are expressed as follows:—

The third question is the peasant proprietary scheme, and, at the outset, I must say, that I fail to see how it could practically work in our country. It is admitted by all who have given the land question consideration, that the result of small holdings, if free sale was allowed, would be that land would ultimately be bought up by the more prudent of the class that was sure to rise among the small proprietors themselves. If the sale of land was not allowed, what then would be the position in the event of causes occurring which might necessitate the withdrawal of capital or labour from the soil? Simply this, *less production*, and consequently a loss to the individual owning it and to the nation at large. The climate of this country is against its producing over and above the support of the person cultivating it, sufficient to enable him to purchase the common and almost necessary luxuries of the day enjoyed by most others not engaged in agriculture. Who would be a proprietor under such circumstances? and what a strange spectacle to witness—the land owned by peasant proprietors, and yet the said

proprietors the most wretchedly miserable lot this country ever saw. Even Mr George is opposed to it.

Imagine a crofter who now pays a yearly rental of £10 desiring to become proprietor of his holding. The price at 25 years' purchase would be £250, and to stock it £60, total £310. Is it likely any sane man would invest his capital in the purchase of a piece of ground which, after all, would not support him? Would it not be much better for him to invest his capital in a small farm which he would have for £40 a year, and which really would be self-supporting.

There is nothing so common with special pleaders as to draw upon the imagination with a total disregard of well ascertained facts. From Arthur Young to John Stuart Mill the testimony of all who have given the land question their consideration goes to prove that peasant proprietors "turn sand into gold." If we traverse the world the only part of it that is a disgrace to civilization is that part where peasant proprietors are non-existent—the country we live in. Who are the authorities referred to by Mr Macdonald, and where did they find such results of aggregation of small properties to follow the creation of peasant proprietors. The legislation of Prussia is the most noted, and probably the best that has taken place in modern times, and Mr Morier, who gives an excellent account of it in "Systems of Land Tenure in Various Countries," remarks on this point as follows:—

One of the commonest arguments used in England against small properties is that they cannot maintain themselves by the side of large properties, and that where free exchange in land is the rule, the large properties will invariably swallow up the small; consequently, that if small proprietors are a desideratum there must be a law of compulsory division of property as in France, or some special State interference, *ad hoc*, as is supposed to exist in Prussia, in order to keep them up. The example of Prussia, on the contrary, tends to establish exactly the reverse, for there, with the most absolute rights of alienation on the part of peasant proprietors, and with their immediate proximity to large and mostly entailed estates, they have fully maintained their position.

Seeing that the direction of legislation is now in this country towards the removal of entail, so as to enable encumbered proprietors to alienate their property, any one who would advocate the tying up of land would be regarded as outside the pale of practical politics, so that Mr Macdonald's theory of *less production* need not disturb any one's equanimity, much less does it demand discussion in view of the experience of other countries.

As to climate. If the climate is unsuited to peasant proprietors, what virtue is there in our system of landlord and tenant to mitigate its severity? Is it because insecurity of tenure is in perfect harmony with the uncertainty of the weather? In these latitudes nature is more bountiful than we are ready to admit. Indigenous products of the

country are suited to our wants, and they have never failed us. The hardy oats are as persistent to the blast as a Highland brigade is to the charge of an enemy. Mr Macdonald may have seen, as I have seen, the starvelings of India crowding into relief camps for food—famishing mothers carrying emaciated infants—because the sky would not yield a drop of rain nor the ground a blade of grass. We are not sufficiently thankful for the mild and humid climate of the Western Highlands.

The climate of Norway is more severe, and even that of Switzerland, along the higher slopes of the Alps, yet in these countries we find peasant proprietors living in a state of comfort and prosperity. On the other hand, in Italy and Spain, where landlordism obtains, we find poverty and wretchedness similar to what we witness in Ireland and in the Highlands. With regard to Norway Mr Laing draws the following comparison:—

If small proprietors are not good farmers, it is not from the same cause here which we are told makes them so in Scotland—indolence and want of exertion. The extent to which irrigation is carried on in these glens and valleys shows a spirit of exertion and co-operation to which the latter can show nothing similar. Those may be bad farmers who do such things, but they are not indolent, or ignorant of working in concert and keeping up establishments for common benefit. They are, undoubtedly, in these respects, far in advance of any community of cottars in our Highland glens. *They feel as proprietors* who receive the advantage of their exertions. The excellent state of the roads and bridges is another proof that the country is inhabited by people who have a common interest to keep them in repair. There are no tolls.

But Mr Macdonald himself, in former articles, showed very clearly that crofters might be very comfortable, if not prosperous, under a Highland sky, if they had only “elbow-room,” and it is therefore all the more unaccountable why he should now consider that as proprietors of their holdings they should become “the most wretchedly miserable lot this country ever saw.” This is certainly a theory with regard to the “magic of property” which goes against all experience, and we are left to the unaided light of reason. We must bring it to that test. But before doing so I may offer the observation that the imagination, to which Mr Macdonald appeals, would be greatly taxed to picture how this change, from their present condition as crofters, could well be more abject than it is.

Finding that peasant proprietors are industrious, comfortable, prosperous, and well housed in every country, irrespective of difference in soil and climate, we must look for the cause of the abject condition of our own peasantry to some diversity of human character which is inherent and ineradicable in the Celtic race, if we do not attribute it to a difference in the social and economic laws under which they live. When I look at the trim fields and cleanly villas of France, at the picturesque chalets of Switzerland, and at the substantial houses of dressed granite in our

Channel Islands, I ask myself the question, Are these peasants so prosperous, so comfortable, and so well housed in consequence of superiority of character to my own countrymen, who live in hovels more like the wigwams of Esquimaux than the habitations of civilized men, or is it owing to social and political causes? I am reluctant to admit any inferiority of race and character. Human nature is not very different all the world over, and the desire for improvement is universal. That desire is barred and clogged where a man is not secured in the fruits of his labour. Industry and prosperity follow closely on the heels of freedom and security. Indolence and filth are the badges of spoliation and oppression. Highland landlords and their apologists decry the climate, and traduce the character of the people, to account for the natural results of a system of which they form the principal part.

But viewing the question by the unaided light of reason alone, Mr Macdonald puts a case which shows very clearly the disadvantages under which Highland crofters labour. "Imagine a crofter," says Mr Macdonald, "who now pays a yearly rental of £10 desiring to become proprietor of his holding." . . . "Would it not be better for him to invest his capital in a small farm which he would have for £40 a-year, and which really would be self-supporting." There are fishermen, crofters, not a few I am glad to know, who have money lying in the bank at 2 per cent. per annum, to whom farms at £40 a year are not available, even if such farms were great prizes, which I hardly think they are. The possessor of a capital of £250, by transferring it from a bank of deposit to a much safer bank, the soil of his country, would at once effect a saving of half his rental. "Money saved is money gained," and, as a peasant proprietor, he would make a very fair start on that transaction. Is the law that compels him to pay four per cent. on the landlord's capital when he can obtain only two per cent. on his own a just law? The Lochcarron estate has now changed hands speculatively three times within less than half a life-time to men who did not very much require it, whilst poor men to whom land is a necessity are debarred from investing their money in it, and have anxiously to study the temper and disposition of every new master.

But the saving thus effected, with regard to capital, would be the smallest part of the peasant proprietor's gains. The knowledge that the fruits of his labour would accrue to himself, and acquire a market value, should give a spur to his energies in employing every spare day and hour in building a house and in reclaiming waste lands. If a peasant build a house at a cost of £100, it is of some consequence to him whether it will have a selling value, or, by the logic of the law, it belongs to the land-

lord. In the same way, if he reclaim an acre of waste land, worth one pound in its natural state, and raises it to the value of twenty-five pounds, it must be of some consequence to him whether the produce of his labour accrues to himself or goes to the landlord, not only as property, but also as a means of raising his rent upon him. It may not be clear to landlords that a man whose labour takes the shape of property, and has therefore something which he can sell, is in a better way than the man whose labour is redundant, and never takes this tangible form, but to a man of business like myself it seems a matter of prime importance.

I trust Mr Macdonald will reconsider the grounds of his opinions, and allow the weight of his influence, as an excellent landlord, and a patriotic Highlander, to be enlisted in favour of giving absolute freedom and security to our peasantry, which can only be done effectually by making them peasant proprietors. I may be permitted to say that I consider it a somewhat beggarly business for noblemen and gentlemen to be engaged in collecting rents from this class of the people, and I trust that Highland proprietors will be willing to alienate that part of their properties which is occupied by crofters for this great and salutary measure.

Then should they meet their clansmen, not like cringing serfs, but as independent men paying that manly deference which wealth and rank and character will always secure, in a state of freedom, from the humbler classes; and with the capital thus released to engage in those mighty activities which are going forward in other spheres of life, and so contribute to the raising of the general level of a progressive society, by applying a powerful motive for improvement to its lowest substratum—the working classes on their estates.

How, then, is the difficulty to be met? To bad landlords we have nothing to say, and from them we have nothing to expect. It is from our friends the good landlords that we are entitled to know how they propose to give security against eviction, and to give the people a title under which they will not only be safe to build for themselves decent houses, but also to give a saleable value to such houses, so as to enable the owners, when so disposed, to move onward and upward. The question is a pressing one. The public conscience is shocked, and men's temper is aroused. Are they waiting to form a property defence association or prepared to join with reasonable men to urge the necessities of the case on the attention of Parliament?

Mr Macdonald says that he fails to see how a peasant proprietary scheme could practically work in our country. What I fail to see is how anything short of it can work. "Freedom of contract" under competition

in respect of large farms may be regarded by some as a legitimate transaction, and by others as an immoral compact, incompatible with the full exercise of freedom, contrary to public policy, and opposed to the order of nature and dispensations of Providence; but in either view it is evident that it is utterly inapplicable to small holdings, on which a man's labour is his capital, and who leads a hand-to-mouth existence. Emigration has been cracked up to us as a panacea for all our ills. The Highlander, conscious of a noble tradition, displays so much pride and self-respect that he is easily transformed into a gentleman, and we are ready to regret to see him in a fishing-boat, or with a spade upon his shoulder, and think that his most appropriate position is that of a gentleman farmer in the colonies, or at the council table of an infant republic guiding the destinies of a future empire. That were, indeed, good for him, and perhaps for them, but what about ourselves? Can we do without the fishermen and the labourers?

The life of crofter-fishermen is one of great toil and hardship as well as of risk to property and life. In the latter capacity, where their labour is free, and not liable to confiscation or taxation, they have acquired in fishing boats and materials considerable property. At the end of every fishing season, as at the end of a campaign, there are, alas! always some amissing. There is a fisherman's muster-roll as well as a soldier's? Why are landlords not more in sympathy with this useful and industrious class? Owing to the uncertainty and lottery of this industry of great national importance, small holdings are most useful if not indispensable to them, to employ their own spare time, and the otherwise redundant labour of their families, which could not be utilized without. No doubt their condition would be improved by emigration, but there are, as I said, two sides to that question. If we part with our fishermen-crofters, how are we to increase our supplies of fish and poultry and eggs?

Economically considered, large farms may produce better results than small holdings, although I question the soundness of that theory, particularly with regard to poultry, bacon, and eggs, and the other products of *petite culture* which now form so large a consumption at advanced prices, and for which we have to indent so largely on the Continent for our supplies. Indeed, I have often wished that thoughtless sportsmen who go after grouse would reflect more on the great utility and marvellous fecundity of the domestic fowl, and devote their time to importing incubators for the benefit of the Highlands, and the country at large. But whatever difference of opinion may prevail with regard to large as against small farms, no such question can be made to obscure our vision in respect of the fisheries. The boundless resources of the ocean are practically

inexhaustible, and its products are in direct proportion to the number of hands employed. Is it not a sad reflection on the selfishness and apathy of society that this useful class should have no right of domicile in their native country any more than if they were wandering gipsies, and are at the mercy of a few irresponsible individuals in respect of their dwellings?

How, then, is the case to be met? The very foundation of progress is security. The origin of commerce and civilization is the exchange of the products of labour. With regard to the crofters, in respect of houses and the improvement of land, these powerful elements and motives necessary to human exertion and improvement are totally wanting. The knowledge that the fruits of his labour would accrue to himself and his family, in respect of his property, would call forth his dormant energies, and the spirit of emulation would pervade the whole community. Every effort of labour would increase the selling value of his land and houses, and, with an educated family of sons and daughters ambitious to find a wider field and greater scope for their energies, he would most likely sell his holding and migrate to some other locality at home, or emigrate to some foreign part. Some industrious and prosperous young man, anxious to settle in a comfortable home, with ground already in cultivation, and probably capable of further extension and improvement would purchase the holding, and in course of time would probably follow the example of his predecessor. Giving a saleable value to a house would thus become a great lever power to carry off any excess of population. The upward and onward movement of society is directed by motive and desire and not by want and necessity, and thus we find the great flow of emigration from Germany and the Scandinavian countries proceeding to America, with money to make a fresh start in life, and on such a scale as to cause anxiety to the Governments of those countries, whilst we are obliged to resort to a state-aided emigration in Ireland to get rid of pauperized starvelings.

Of what advantage can it be to landlords to hold sway over this class of the people? We seek no confiscation of any legitimate right. On the contrary, our demand on behalf of the crofters is for a restitution of their lost rights, at a fair valuation of their acquired market value. Our demand is for perfect freedom in the prosecution of their business. As freemen they are perfectly safe to *manage* themselves, and the resources of civilisation are quite sufficient. It needs not the power of landlords, factors, and ground officers to teach them to respect one another's land marks, and the resources of the empire—legal, police, and military—will be better employed in some other way than in enforcing the payment of rents, and effecting clearances.

The area of land now in the occupancy of crofters forms but a small

proportion of large estates, or of the total area of the Highlands, and if landlords wish to avoid the charge of "earth hunger," or rather, what is much more criminal, earth gluttony, they ought to be only too glad to get rid of the heavy responsibility of keeping this class in a state of bondage and fear, and anxious to avoid public odium by coming forward freely with an offer of self-expropriation by alienating part of their estates in favour of government for creating a peasant proprietary.

Our duty would be so much simplified if we could get rid of ideas which originated in the flint age, and could realise to ourselves the fact that we are now living in the age of electricity. It is a foolish conceit for men now-a-days to strive after transmitting a name to posterity by means of so many hundred square miles of Highland mountains and moorlands. Indeed, I am disposed to think that posterity will care very little about that form of human vanity. Nor in the consideration of this important subject, on the moral side, ought we to leave out of view the pernicious influence it has on the minds of landlords to find themselves in command over men's industries and comforts, and exposed to the flatteries of designing persons and of having their minds poisoned by the misrepresentations of others. It takes a strong and a virtuous mind to resist these influences, and what man who finds himself in uncontrolled power over men's labour and food is not likely to degenerate into a tyrant!

To encumbered landlords it will be a positive gain, and to those whose estates are free of debt it will be no loss, as investments in other industries, such as railways, shipping, mines, telegraph and lighting companies, and all the mighty energies that are going forward around us will yield them a better return, whilst to many of them it will give a better insight into the wonderful functions and evolutions of capital; and the excitement of the Stock Exchange will have a more invigorating influence on their minds than the excitement of the race course.

Whether we deserve it or not we bear the credit of being a very sensible, practical, and withal a peaceable people, and if it be not presumption on my part I should recommend the crofter-fishermen themselves to lay their case before Parliament in a petition setting forth their grievances and praying for such relief as their case demands, and which can only be obtained by legislative action. The large farmers have had their say, without much reference to the more urgent, and not less deserving circumstances of small occupiers of land. A deputation of crofters, carrying the petition of the whole Gaelic race, with a piper at their head—for we can do nothing great and signal without the bagpipes—marching from Trafalgar Square down Whitehall and Parliament Street,

and knocking at the door of the House of Commons might move the great *vis inertia* of John Bull ; for our appeal practically lies to the great people of England. It needs not a Royal Commission to inform Parliament of the depressed condition of the Highlands. Parliament has its own eyes and ears, and spreads itself annually over the Highlands, gathering evidence, and, let us hope, much good solid health. Let the demand be complete, and perfect freedom or, failing that, a complete exodus to the Western Highlands of the United States—the mountains and valleys of California and Nevada, where the climate is of the mildest, the soil of the richest, and abounding in gold and silver, to give development to their great natural resources by means of human labour. The question is not now what shall we do with the Highlanders, but shall we part with them ? My friends ! if justice is not done you, shake the dust from the soles of your feet and depart in peace, for they have used you despitefully.

I have already exceeded the limits which I prescribed to myself at the outset of this article, but I cannot close it without a brief reference to the quotation already made, which has a wider scope, but more deeply concerns the Highlands than any other part of the country. Of all the eminent writers of Scotland on social and economic subjects we cannot conjure a name which deserves greater veneration than that of the great and good Dr Chalmers, whose profound observations ought to have commanding influence with legislators.

In the incidence of taxation the greater part of the burden falls on the industrious classes, and land, which ought, as formerly, to pay for its own defence, is exempted to a shameful extent. To make "a commencement, however humble," there is no part of land so appropriate for the purpose as that part which is withheld from productive uses and devoted to purposes of sport and luxury. Not only does the community suffer by keeping land out of cultivation, and withholding it from the employment of reproductive labour, but it suffers also to the extent to which a population employed upon it would be consumers of duty-paying articles such as tea, coffee, tobacco, spirits, and such like, upon which the greater part of the taxation of the country falls. On the principle of taxing luxuries, and of the obligation that every one contributes according to his means to the public expenses, those who can afford to indulge in this sport as well as those who administer to the indulgence for their own profit at the expense and loss of the country should be taxed on those principles. In order to check this fashionable craze, and for the relief of the burden of taxation which falls so heavily on the industrial classes, a territorial impost ought to be levied upon all land not used industrially whether in the occupation of the owner himself or let out at a rental. The tax ought

to be on the area and not on the rental value, because land so used can be made of so much greater value in response to human labour. We must have regard to the wanton waste as well as to the potential properties. "A humble commencement" of one shilling per statute acre would probably have the desired effect of forcing deer forests and other domains of the same character into productive occupation, and in any petition by the Highland crofters a request of this nature might be placed on record. It takes as much force of gravitation to make the county of Sutherland revolve annually round the sun as it does the county of Lancaster, within a fraction, and in case of attack it would take as many men to defend it, but the valuation of Sutherlandshire is only £107,651, whilst that of Lancashire is £19,243,918. Population is a mighty factor in estimating the capabilities of land.

The creation of a peasant proprietary, and a practical re-colonization, I regard as the foundation and starting point of a great new departure to give fresh vitality and permanent stability to our declining agriculture.

MALCOLM MACKENZIE
(OF RANGOON).

LONDON, 27th July 1882.

Literature.

VESTIGIA CELTICA: CELTIC FOOTPRINTS IN PHILOLOGY, ETHICS, AND RELIGION. By DONALD MASSON, M.A., M.D. Edinburgh: MacLachlan & Stewart.

WE gladly welcome any effort in Celtic research, and are disposed to look upon such as generously as we can. Dr Masson here submits what he declares to be "The fruit of no small labour." The *brochure*, which is excellently printed in large type, extends to 79 pages. The first sixteen are prefatory, and not until we reach the twenty-second page do we meet with anything like a positive assertion, the first being:—"All through the Gaelic language the Pronouns Demonstrative are identical with the corresponding Adverbs of Place." This observation is correct, and at first sight may seem a discovery; but may we not reasonably expect to meet with that identity in Gaelic which in no possible language can be essentially different?

Dr Masson's method of Ethical investigation is good. He discovers the key-note of the language—and, we submit, of all language—in the primary idea of "space;" and the mental process following on this disposes words in a "Verbal-Perspective," grouping his materials according to his sense of what, to himself, as centre should be their relative local proximity. We don't like the use of "space" as applied to the primary idea, but prefer "distance," whether in space or time. Distance is a simpler abstract than "space," and applies where space fails. This Verbal-Perspective is a good and valuable key to the development of the language, which may well be

followed further. Its application by the author, in conjunction with his theory that "the Celt abhors the abstract," does very good work in examining the prepositional phrases with *ann*. Whether the conclusions arrived at be esteemed correct or not we will not undertake to say, but we are glad to admit a very neat process of investigation, though this theory of the Celtic abhorrence of the abstract must be examined by a broader application. As far as its application to the prepositional phrases in *ann* goes, a fair case is made out for it; but how does it do in such expressions as "is toigh leam mairi," &c. Have we not here the exact opposite process of mind to that on which the author founds his theory? Dr Masson knows how general that idiom is in Gaelic. We have the substantive particular thrown into the abstract general so regularly that one might advance a theory in direct opposition to that of the author, and make out a very good case indeed. Dr Masson has, we think, fallen into an error which in a measure accounts for what some will consider an unwarrantable conclusion. He has evidently lost the guiding value of the gaelic idiom in considering his translations rather than the original expressions, *e.g.*, "Is fearr leam an t-each so" = is better with me this horse = I prefer this horse. Here we have *fearr*, which is certainly an abstract noun, rendered by a mongrel adjective in the one expression, and by a verb in the other, and thus the Ethical value of the expression is quite lost.

It would perhaps have been as well had Dr Masson not gone to press until he had completed the larger work which he has in preparation. We fear he will be disappointed if he leaves it to his countrymen, by the manner in which they receive "the chancel of his well-proportioned church," to say "whether or not he shall proceed with the work, and complete the edifice which he has designed." Dr Masson ought to have remembered the application of the well-known proverb to him who would judge of an uncompleted building. To judge of the author's well-proportioned church by the present chancel may be unjust, as we believe it will; but one thing we are sure of; and that is, that the public will not enter into an agreement with any author to buy a work, apart from its own completeness and merit, to encourage him to publish another as to the value of which they must be entirely in the dark. We would recommend Dr Masson to finish his larger work, and publish it on its merits; and these will be none the less appreciated if the author simplifies his style by a less ample use of long and abstruse words and sentences.

The work is really suggestive, and will prove useful to the student of philology; but we have no hesitation in saying that it is necessary for the establishment of the author's reputation as a Celtic philologist, that his larger and more complete work should make its appearance as soon as possible.

THE CURSE OF LOCHGARRY: A CURIOUS MACDONALD FAMILY LEGEND.—The following curious note is supplied by a member of this family. Donald Macdonald of Lochgarry was between 50 and 60 when he fled with Charles Edward to France. He was followed shortly after by his wife, Isabel Gordon, and her three sons. She escaped in the disguise of a clansman from Lochgarry, as the Butcher Cumberland and his troops broke through the gates and burnt the old castle to the ground, afterwards seizing and destroying all the surrounding lands. Donald placed his two eldest sons in the Scots Guard (Ogilvie's), and the youngest in the Swiss Guard. He himself continued to live near Charles Edward in Paris, always retaining the full Highland costume, and from his beauty and martial bearing, was the

cynosure of all eyes, even in those days of manliness. On one occasion, while dining in a Paris café, he overheard seven Frenchmen at a distant table deriding the young Chevalier and the half-clad savages he had brought with him. In an instant his glass was shattered at the head of one, and his dirk thrown in the midst of all. He then and there challenged the seven on the spot, and fought them one by one, killing or wounding all. His eldest son, Colonel John, after the disbanding of the *Garde Ecossaise*, began to pine after his native country, and, without telling his father, made his way to Calais, intending to embark for Great Britain. His father discovered his departure, followed him to Calais, and finding him, resolved to pronounce on him the famous curse of Lochgarry, which has clung to the race ever since:—"My curse on any of my race who puts his foot again on British shore; my double curse on he who of my race may submit to the Guelph; and my deadliest curse on he who may try to regain Lochgarry." He threw his dirk after his son, and turned his back for ever on him he had loved the best. The old man died shortly after, in Paris, of a broken heart, living long enough to hear that Colonel John had made his submission, had been given a full Colonelcy in the British Army, and the attainder of Lochgarry levied in his favour. His second brother, Alexander, would never consent to incur any of his father's curse, so he entered the Portuguese service, where he lived and died. The full weight of the curse fell on Colonel John, for when he sought to inhabit Lochgarry, after he had built a beautiful modern mansion on the site of the burnt castle, his fine health began to fail, the strain on his nerves by living, as it were, amongst sounds of another world, or signs, as the tenantry said, "of the puir *old* laird's wraith" being amongst them. The ringing of bells, the knockings at the hall door by unseen hands, the glimpses of a shadowy figure so haunted him, that he was forced to shut it up and return to France, where he died shortly after, leaving Lochgarry (being himself unmarried) to his next brother, Alexander (of Portugal), and his heirs. But Alexander never took possession. Lochgarry House remained shut up till his death in 1812, when his only son, Anthony, was brought from Portugal by his mother (a Portuguese) to enter the British service and take possession. Neither he nor his young wife were able to continue to inhabit it, owing to the same unearthly sounds. He also died, when only 31, after having unfortunately sold Lochgarry, the attainder having barred the entail.—*Mac-kensie's History of the Macdonalds of Glengarry.*

NEW EDITION OF "BIDE A WEE."—We are happy to know that Hunter, Rose, & Co., of Toronto, will have ready in a few days a Canadian edition of "Bide a Wee," enlarged; a venture which we have no doubt will be attended with much success, and secure fresh fame for the fair author, Mrs Prof. Schultze, *nee* MacColl, of Kingston.—*Kingston (Canada) Whig.*

[Our readers will probably recognise in the fair, and now famous, authoress, the daughter of Evan MacColl, "Bard of Lochfyne." Well done the MacColls!]